



Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-93-245
Thursday
23 December 1993

Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-93-245

CONTENTS

23 December 1993

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Arab-Israeli Talks

Labor's Zvili Meets 'Arafat in Tunis 21 Dec [Jerusalem Radio]	1
Paris Talks Aim at Resolving 'Deep Differences'	1
Talks Resume in Versailles Hotel 22 Dec [AFP]	1
Talks End Without Agreement [Jerusalem Radio]	2
Peres, 'Abd-Rabbuh Hold Unplanned Meeting [Jerusalem Radio]	2
Talks To Resume in Cairo 28 Dec [MENA]	2

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat, Mubarak To Discuss Oslo, Paris Talks [MENA]	2
'Abbas Sees Need for Further 'Compromise' [London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 22 Dec]	3
Al-Najjab Denies Oslo Talks Failed [London MBC TV]	3
'Urayqat Discusses Accord, Israeli Stance [Cairo International]	4
PLO Member on Countering Israeli 'Blackmail' [MENA]	5
Former Negotiator on Need for Complete Agreement [London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 22 Dec] ..	5
Outlines of 'Constitutional Document' Reported [AL-DUSTUR 23 Dec]	5
Three 'Arafat Aides Allowed To Return to Gaza [Jerusalem New Channel TV]	6
Israeli 'Hard-Line' Stance Blamed for Impasse [AL-QUDS 21 Dec]	6
PLO Seeking Loan To Pay Workers Wages [SAWT AL-SHA'B 23 Dec]	7
PFLP Denies Approval of Agreement, Police Force [Al-Quds Radio]	7
Hamas To Propose Alliance Framework at Meeting [AL-QUDS 22 Dec]	7
Hamas Rally Criticizes 'Arafat's Leadership [Jerusalem TV]	8
Breakthrough in PLO-Saudi Ties Expected [AL-DUSTUR 22 Dec]	8
PLO Official Denies Reports [AL-RA'Y 23 Dec]	9

ARAB AFRICA

Egypt

Musa Comments on Peace Talks, Regional Issues [Cairo Radio]	10
Further on Disappearance of Former Libyan Minister	10
Musa Cited on Disappearance [London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 21 Dec]	10
Wife Seeks Help in Locating al-Kikhya [London AL-HAYAH 20 Dec]	10
Libyan Dissident Interviewed [AL-WAFD 19 Dec]	11
Editorial Discusses Libyan Role [MENA]	11
Libya's Invitations to Terrorists Assessed [AL-AKHBAR 15 Dec]	11
Libya Urged To Accept Arab League Role in Crisis [AL-AHRAM 19 Dec]	12
Editorial on Nuclear Weapons, UN Resolution [AL-AHRAM 20 Dec]	14
Information Minister on Coverage of Terrorism [MENA]	14
Imprisoned 'Extremists' Plan 'Unified Front' [AL-'ARABI 20 Dec]	15
Authorities Arrest 50 'Fundamentalists' in South [AFP]	15
Islamic Group Claims Credit for Killing [London AL-HAYAH 20 Dec]	16
Minister Urges Council To 'Purge' Islam of 'Blemishes' [MENA]	16
Memorandum of Understanding Signed With World Bank [MENA]	16

Libya

Al-Qadhafi Warns Press Against Attacking Clinton [JANA]	17
---	----

Morocco

Finance Minister Outlines Draft Budget [Rabat TV]	17
---	----

Sudan

Official Calls For 'Warm Relations' With U.S. [SUNA]	21
Iranian Construction Jihad Ministry Delegation Visits [SUNA]	21
Al-Bashir Stresses Consolidation of Ties [IRNA]	21
Joint Committee Discusses Relations With Ethiopia [SUNA]	21
Al-Bashir Praises Relations [SUNA]	22
Contacts Held With Israel on Security Cooperation [AL-AHRAM 19 Dec]	22
Al-Bashir Says Rebel Movement Dependent on Foreign Aid [Omdurman Radio]	22

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Al-Qasimi Reads GCC Summit Final Communiqué [Riyadh TV]	23
---	----

Yemen

Al-Iryani Urges Decentralization in South, East [London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 21 Dec]	25
---	----

IRAQ

Paper Lauds UN Resolution on Sovereignty [INA]	26
AL-JUMHURIYAH Hails Resolution [INA]	26
Protest Lodged With UN Over U-2 Flights [INA]	26
Spokesman Denies Report on Repatriated Kuwaitis [INA]	27
UK Police Search House of 'Oppositionist' [London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 18 Dec]	27
Barzani on PKK, Ties With Turkey, Iraq [London AL-HAYAH 19 Dec]	27
PUK's Talabani Leaves for Syria, Europe [Voice of the People of Kurdistan]	29
Opposition Attacks Government Checkpoint [Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution]	30
Artillery, Helicopters Shell Kurdish Areas [Voice of the People of Kurdistan]	30

ISRAEL

Opposition Parties React to Baytuniya Attack [Jerusalem Radio]	31
Settlers To Patrol Roads, Disrupt Orient House [Jerusalem New Channel TV]	31
Bomb Explodes in Gaza Police Headquarters Yard [Jerusalem Radio]	31
Danish Prime Minister Holds News Conference [Jerusalem Radio]	31

JORDAN

Talks Held With Iraq on New Import Regulations [AKHBAR AL-USBU' 23 Dec]	32
Official on Iraq's Decision on Imports [AL-ASWAQ 23 Dec]	32
Iraq's Execution of Citizen Confirmed [London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 21 Dec]	32
Relations With PLO 'Tense' Over Economic Issues [THE STAR 23 Dec]	32

LEBANON

Buwayz on Peace Talks, Christopher Message [Beirut Radio]	34
Chief Editor Urges Confederation With Syria [AL-SHIRA' 20 Dec]	34
Armenian Parliamentary Delegation Departs [VOM]	35

SYRIA

Resolution to Peace Impasse U.S. 'Responsibility' [Damascus Radio]	36
Armenian Parliamentary Delegation Arrives [Damascus TV]	36

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Libya To Help Water, Electricity Ministry [Kabul Radio]	37
Heavy Fighting Among Hekmatyar's Forces in Lowgar [Kabul Radio]	37
Hekmatyar Forces Mount Mortar Attack on Kabul [Kabul Radio]	37
Uzbeks Battle Hekmatyar, Mas'ud [London AL-HAYAH 18 Dec]	37

India

Spokesman Promises 'Realistic' Approach to Pakistan Talks [Delhi Radio]	38
Air Chief Says Country Developing Antimissile System [INDIAN EXPRESS 17 Dec]	38
GATT Seen as 'Coercive Instrument' of U.S. [INDIAN EXPRESS 16 Dec]	38
Parliament Passes Human Rights Protection Bill [Delhi Radio]	39

Iran

Foreign Ministry Issues Statement on Bosnia [Tehran Radio]	39
Habibi Ends Visit to Turkey, Reports to Cabinet	39
Confers With Turkish Prime Minister [Tehran International]	39
Briefs Cabinet on Outcome of Talks [Tehran TV]	40
Commentary Views Results of Visit [Tehran International]	40
Moroccan Minister Filali Continues Visit	40
Seeks To Promote Economic Ties [IRNA]	40
Departs After 'Constructive' Talks [Tehran Radio]	40
Commentary Assesses GCC Communique, Oil Production [Tehran Radio]	41
Daily Denounces Bomb Attack in Beirut [IRNA]	41
Minister, Moscow Prayer Leader Discuss Cooperation [IRNA]	42
Minister Assures Czech Envoy of Debt Repayments [IRNA]	42
Agreement With France on Mining Exploration Signed [Tehran Radio]	42
Hashemi-Rafsanjani Visits Mazandaran Province [Tehran Radio]	42
Comments on Education, Economy [Tehran Radio]	43
Choice of New 'Source of Emulation' Discussed [London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 21 Dec]	43
Khamene'i Appoints New Head of Kayhan Foundation [IRNA]	44
Draft Bill on Pornographic Audio-Visuals Detailed [Tehran Radio]	44

Pakistan

Foreign Minister Urges Steps To Control Nuclear Arms [Islamabad Radio]	45
National Assembly Forms Special Committee on Kashmir [Islamabad TV]	45

Arab-Israeli Talks

Labor's Zvili Meets 'Arafat in Tunis 21 Dec

TA2212152693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Text] Labor Party Secretary General Nisim Zvili and 'Aliza Savir of the Foreign Ministry met with Yasir 'Arafat and senior PLO officials in Tunis last night. In the meeting 'Arafat expressed his confidence that immediately after his arrival in the territories after the agreement is implemented he will be able to eradicate terrorism and impose order. Nisim Zvili emphasized that his meeting with 'Arafat did not replace the negotiations, and that his talks in Tunis did not deal with issues of substance.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1500 GMT on 22 December adds the following: "PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat says the attack in Baytuniya today teaches him that time is working against the sides and that the political process must be accelerated in order to decrease terrorism. Our party affairs correspondent Shmuel Tal reports 'Arafat said this during the meeting with Nisim Zvili in Tunis. According to Zvili 'Arafat's reaction to the attack was extremely grave. Referring to the Paris talks, 'Arafat said he directed the Palestinian delegation to remain there until white smoke comes out. Zvili received the impression that 'Arafat is optimistic about the results of the talks, although he said he does not know how will it be possible to bridge the gaps created by the red lines drawn by the two sides. Yasir 'Arafat also told Zvili that after he comes to the territories following the agreement he will be able to curb Hamas' [Islamic Resistance Movement] influence and decrease terrorism.]

Paris Talks Aim at Resolving 'Deep Differences'

Talks Resume in Versailles Hotel 22 Dec

AU2212130693 Paris AFP in English 1227 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Text] Versailles, France, Dec 23 (AFP)—PLO and Israeli negotiators began talks in the Paris suburb of Versailles Wednesday [22 December] in a bid to resolve their deep differences over how to apply their accord on limited Palestinian autonomy.

The talks were taking place at the luxury Trianon Palace hotel, a whole floor of which was under heavy police guard, and journalists were kept out.

But the hotel, on the edge of the Versailles park, west of Paris, remained open to the public and there was only light police surveillance of the hotel grounds and the lobby.

The talks had been due to start Tuesday, but were put back due to the late arrival of the Israeli delegation led by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

Some of the negotiators did meet on Tuesday, accompanied by senior Norwegian officials.

Norway heads a committee attempting to broker peace in the Middle East.

PLO information chief Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh headed his side's team in Wednesday's talks, which follow two days of failed discussions at a country house near Oslo at the weekend.

The two sides are still at odds over the size of the area around the West Bank city of Jericho that will fall under Palestinian control, the question of Jewish settlements in Jericho and the Gaza Strip, and control of border crossings from the autonomous territories to neighbouring Egypt and Jordan.

The Trianon Palace, which has one of the best restaurants in the Paris area, has often been used for secret negotiations. On Tuesday, French Foreign Ministry spokesman Richard Duque said the French would give no information on the talks, at the request of the two sides.

A Palestinian diplomatic sources on Wednesday refused to comment "at this stage of the negotiations, given that the Oslo talks made no real progress."

But informed sources said the negotiators were discussing a working document on a Palestinian "presence" at the border crossings, with the Israelis watching from a distance, using "electronic devices."

The Versailles negotiations, if they succeed, should lead to a meeting in the next few days between Palestine Liberation Organisation chairman Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, opening the way for a global agreement on autonomy, the sources said.

In the Trianon Palace are all the key figures involved in the secret negotiations last summer that led to the Oslo agreement on autonomy in August.

In the Israeli delegation are Environment Minister Yosi Sarid, chief autonomy negotiator General Amon Shahaq and Foreign Ministry director-general Uri Savir.

On the Palestinian side, apart from Rabbuh, is Palestinian economic affairs chief Abu 'Ala'.

Norwegian mediator Terje Larsen, special advisor on Middle East affairs to Norwegian Foreign Minister Johan Jorgen Holst, is also present. Sources said he would not necessarily take part in the talks, but would be available to help to get round sticking points.

Sources said the talks were moved to France at the request of the Palestinians because Paris is closer to PLO headquarters in Tunis than Oslo.

Other secretive meetings have been held in Paris, notably one that wrapped up the final details of the autonomy accord that was signed in Washington on September 13 last.

Talks End Without Agreement

TA2312064793 *Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English* 0500
GMT 23 Dec 93

[Excerpt] Israel and the PLO concluded talks in Versailles last night without reaching any agreement on the controversial questions. The next round will take place in Cairo early next week. Our correspondent Gid'on Kouts reports from Versailles:

This was another round without accord, but Israeli representatives assure us that all they require are two or three more rounds to overcome all the difficulties and reach accord on the disputed issues. When that happens, Yitzhaq Rabin and Yasir 'Arafat will be able to meet at last and to announce that the implementation of the agreement of principles can begin. The Israeli representatives assert that there has been a further rapprochement between the parties' stands, although the cardinal and technical questions pertaining to the issue of border crossing control was not solved. Who and what document will identify the Palestinians? How will the electronic control be operated? What is to be done about Jordan's objection to Israeli-Palestinian border crossing points? Should a Jordanian point be added? The issue of the Jericho area also remains unresolved.

The Versailles round consisted of 24 intensive hours of talks. The last hours, in which papers were exchanged and telephone calls to Yasir 'Arafat were made by the Palestinian delegation, did nothing to solve the problems. The night meeting lasted a mere two hours. The sides dispersed after agreeing to meet in Cairo.

Over the weekend our representatives will consult with Yitzhaq Rabin and defense circles, while the Palestinians will consult with 'Arafat. Unlike the past, there is no crisis. There is a process, delegation sources say, and 'Arafat is definitely a man with whom we can converse, one who knows how to take care of his interests in negotiations. [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 23 December carries a related report by Aluf Ben on pages A1 and A8, adding that "the compromise emerging on the issue of the Jericho area is that it be approximately 100 km in size, as opposed to the 27 km Israel proposed in the past." The Israeli proposal says "that the Jericho area should not include Israeli settlements, the Jordanian border, the Dead Sea, areas overlooking the Jerusalem-Jericho highway, and, to the extent possible, Army installations."]

Peres, 'Abd-Rabbuh Hold Unplanned Meeting

TA2312104393 *Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew* 1005
GMT 23 Dec 93

[Text] The Israeli and PLO delegations have just left Paris. Prior to their departure, Shim'on Peres and Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh held an unscheduled meeting which concluded in a positive outcome, according to reports. The

talks are to resume in Cairo on 27 December. Gid'on Kouts reports from Versailles:

[Begin recording] [Kouts] According to Israeli sources, the additional meeting between Shim'on Peres and Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, held after the Palestinian delegation postponed its departure by several hours, achieved some progress on the issue of border crossing points, although the details are not known. Shim'on Peres, smiling and relaxed, said that much work still lies ahead, that it will be accomplished, and that the veil of secrecy surrounding the talks has been helpful.

Delegation sources had earlier reported that there was a lot of haggling over diverse details and that they did not expect the 27 December meeting in Cairo to suffice or be the last one. As opposed to the atmosphere in Oslo, however, there was no tension between the parties in Versailles. The official communique released by the parties states that accord was achieved on several issues, while other subjects require further discussion and consultations.

PLO delegation head Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh was also quite relaxed:

['Abd-Rabbuh, in English] We exchanged the views and the suggestions, and both parties will relate to their leadership in order to breach the gap between the two positions, and we will meet once again in Cairo next week. [end recording]

Talks To Resume in Cairo 28 Dec

NC2312105993 *Cairo MENA in Arabic* 1016 GMT 23
Dec 93

[Text] Paris, 23 Dec (MENA)—Ahmad Quray', head of the PLO Economic Department and a member of the Palestinian delegation to the Paris talks, has announced that Israeli and Palestinian negotiators in charge of implementing self-rule in the Gaza Strip and Jericho will pursue their talks in Cairo on Tuesday [28 December].

Quray' said in a statement today that the Versailles discussions resolved nothing and that the disputed points, especially on the crossings in Gaza and Jericho, remain suspended.

Palestinian Affairs**'Arafat, Mubarak To Discuss Oslo, Paris Talks**

NC2312123793 *Cairo MENA in Arabic* 1142 GMT 23
Dec 93

[Text] Cairo, 23 Dec (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat will visit Cairo in the next 72 hours for a comprehensive assessment with President Husni Mubarak of the Palestinian-Israeli talks in Oslo and Paris.

Palestinian Ambassador in Cairo Sa'id Kamal told MENA that no date has been fixed for president 'Arafat's meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. He

said the 'Arafat-Rabin meeting depends on the Palestinian and Israeli negotiators agreeing on issues that still block the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho First accord, which should have started on 13 December. He added that the two sides will return to their leaders to discuss the ideas raised at the Paris talks.

Diplomatic sources in Cairo said the Palestinian and Israeli delegations will meet in Cairo on Tuesday [28 December] to discuss responses to each one's offer on the disputed points. The sources added that the issue of settlements and security is almost agreed upon and that the Jericho area has been agreed upon, but obstacles remain concerning the crossings issue, which the Palestinian side considers "psychological."

The same sources expected a compromise solution to this issue through a symbolic Palestinian presence on the crossings between the Gaza Strip and Egypt and between Jericho and Jordan and that the issue would be resolved conclusively in the final stage of the accord's implementation.

'Abbas Sees Need for Further 'Compromise'

PM2312095793 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 22 Dec 93 p 2

[Munsif al-Sulaymi report: "In Meeting With Moroccan Press Club in Rabat, Abu-Mazin Says: Way Out of Present Disagreements Lies in Reaching Compromise Acceptable To Both Sides"]

[Text] Rabat—PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas (Abu-Mazin) has said that the way out of the current negotiations lies in reaching a compromise acceptable to the Palestinians that gives them features of sovereignty and offers the Israelis assurances for their security. On the disputed points the Palestinian official said that the crossings are still a disputed point, because the Israelis consider them part of their sovereignty and the Palestinians consider them part of their dignity, refusing to accept that Palestinians' crossing into Jordan or Egypt should be subject to the Israeli forces' control or inspection. However, Abu-Mazin played down the disagreement on this question, pointing to the possibility of achieving a solution to it.

There is also a disagreement over the area covered by Jericho and the settlements, and views were submitted over these during the recent Oslo meeting. What is required is to determine the area and geographical jurisdiction for the settlements, which should be defined precisely. This is in addition to details of the forgotten and confiscated lands.

Abu-Mazin attributed the current disagreement between the Palestinians and the Israelis to different interpretations and views of the substance of the declaration of principles and to the fact that each side wants to secure its own interests to the maximum degree. He pointed out that Israel is seeking full control, that it is clinging

ferociously to the security question, and that the Palestinians, too, are clinging to their sovereignty as stipulated in the agreement and to their dignity.

Abu-Mazin said that the passing of the 13 December deadline is a breach of the 13 September agreement. And that it is important for the same thing not to happen on 13 April, because it is the final date for the Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho. He pointed out that delay and procrastination provide ammunition for those opposed to the agreement and that entering the stage of implementation would reduce the importance of their operations. Abu-Mazin said that the Israeli-Palestinian meeting in Oslo had achieved a breakthrough represented in determining the points of agreement and those of disagreement within the framework of the negotiation over ways of implementing the "Gaza-Jericho agreement." They revolve around four points: the borders, the crossings, the settlements, and the determination of Jericho's area. He declined to give further clarifications about the agreed points, apart from an optimistic hint at the need to narrow the gap between the two sides. He expressed his belief that the disagreement between the two sides could be resolved within a week or so.

Abu-Mazin pointed to the need to narrow the gap between the Israelis and the Palestinians. He said that the two sides do not want to abandon the agreement, but either side wants it to be in its favor.

Asked whether choosing Oslo as a venue for negotiation once again indicates the possibility of returning to the pre-Oslo stage, Abu-Mazin said: "That is out of the question. It is just that the Norwegian Government, which sponsored the first negotiations in complete secrecy and with the utmost efficiency, expressed its wish again to receive the two negotiating delegations in Oslo when it noted the existence of obstacles."

Abu-Mazin spoke about details of the secret Oslo negotiations, in which he personally took part and which lasted eight months. He said that the Palestinians' negotiating battle focused on securing a recognition of the Palestinians as an entity having political and civil rights, and not just a group of people. He said that this was achieved up to a point, indicating the steps that are to follow the implementation of the agreement. Abu-Mazin said that the agreement represents a breakthrough in some of its clauses with regard to the authority, namely the Madrid conference statement, Resolutions 242 and 338, the U.S.-Russian letter of invitation, the U.S. assurances letter, and former U.S. President George Bush's speech.

Al-Najjab Denies Oslo Talks Failed

NC2212212393 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Report on a telephone interview With PLO Executive Committee member Sulayman al-Najjab, in Tunis, by MBC anchorman Antoine 'Awn in London on 22 December—recorded]

[Text] According to this evening's latest reports from France, the Palestinian-Israeli talks in Versailles might change course. There is a possibility that rather than continuing to falter, the talks might make progress at any moment now.

PLO Executive Committee member Sulayman al-Najjab has denied that the talks conducted in Oslo failed. In a telephone conversation we had with him this evening, he admitted that they had stumbled due to two issues.

[Begin recording] [Al-Najjab] Holding the talks in Versailles does not mean that the Oslo discussions failed. Rather they are a follow-up to what was begun in Oslo. Yes, the two points to which you referred—control over the border crossings and the size of the Jericho area—continue to be a thorny issue hindering the negotiations. We are insisting that these crossings leading to the areas from which the Israeli army will withdraw in Gaza and Jericho be placed under Palestinian control. If the Israelis continue to control these crossings, this would mean that the Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho is merely a redeployment of forces. As to the size of the Jericho area, we also insist that it should include the Jericho District. This is in line with UN Security Council Resolution 242 and the Declaration of Principles. It will also facilitate subsequent Israeli withdrawals from other areas in line with future agreements based on the Declaration of Principles.

[Awn] Mr. Sulayman, it has been reported that you have differences with President 'Arafat and that other PLO officials also have differences with President 'Arafat. What is the current situation? Have the differences been resolved?

[Al-Najjab] There are differences but there is also a dialogue among the Palestinian leaders. This is connected with the need to develop the level of leadership performance inside the Executive Committee and other leadership institutions. The entire Palestinian nationalist movement is facing a new stage in the wake of the agreement. It is qualitatively different. While waging a negotiations battle, we are also waging a battle of national reconstruction. The current performance of the PLO institutions is not up to standard. [end recording]

'Urayqat Discusses Accord, Israeli Stance

NC2312075493 *Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic* 0610 GMT 23 Dec 93

[Telephone interview with Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, deputy head of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, in Jerusalem by Ramadan Husayn in Cairo, on the "Dialogue From Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Husayn] Eyes are focused on the occupied Arab territories and Paris, where Palestinian and Israeli delegations hold talks on implementing the first phase of the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles known as Gaza-Jericho First. Do you think there is a chance that the accord may see the light soon?

[Urayqat] I believe the accord should have seen the light on 13 December, that is, 10 days ago. But, regrettably, there are Israeli attempts to bargain over the bargaining. As you know, the Declaration of Principles is not a peace accord or a final settlement, but a first step and contains an agenda that must be implemented.

As we noticed, the Israeli Government tried to bargain over this point, which is a bargaining issue in and of itself. No one asked the Israeli Government to initiate a withdrawal on the morning of 13 [December] and complete it that evening. According to the agreement, withdrawal from Jericho and Gaza should start on 13 December and end on 13 April. Regrettably, the Israeli Government chose to procrastinate and to make no changes on the ground to secure gains or concessions.

We told them at our latest meeting in Cairo, rather, brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] affirmed to them in Cairo, that the peace process means a commitment to that which has been agreed upon and also means reconfirmation that the goal of the peace process is to implement Resolution 242, in other words, to end, not to reorganize, the occupation. Great efforts are being exerted and we hope these will lead to tangible results in the coming hours.

[Husayn] President Abu-'Ammar was scheduled to meet Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. Is such a meeting expected to be held shortly or will the outcome of the Paris meetings decide this one?

[Urayqat] What will decide the meeting is the outcome of the Paris talks and the current contacts president Abu-'Ammar is holding. The meeting is not a goal. As we said in Cairo, Israel is required to stick to the provisions of the accord, particularly the timetable.

[Husayn] There is another issue, that of security and the control of crossings between the two sides. Israeli Prime Minister Rabin says there are no concessions on security. What does Rabin mean by concessions and what is Israel's view on this vital issue?

[Urayqat] Actually, Rabin uses the security issue as a pretext in an attempt to reorganize the occupation. What is meant by the foreign security stipulated in the accord? There is a peace accord between Egypt and Israel for example. What is [words indistinct] on the Egyptian side? There is an agreement between the two sides. The same thing applies to the Jordanian border, where there is a peace process in progress to which Jordan is a party. There is a Jordanian agenda signed with the Israeli side.

We view the current pretexts about security as an Israeli attempt to circumvent the whole accord, which stipulated Resolution 242 as its aim. Such attempts are rejected in part and parcel.

From the start, we said the settlements are an obstacle to peace, illegal, and a time bomb that could explode in our face at any time. Based on the premise of protecting the security of the Israelis and the settlements, the Israeli

army wants a presence on main roads around the settlements and near our towns, villages, and camps. This is precisely what has caused the current impasse in the talks.

[Husayn] But some say this intransigence by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin is for domestic consumption so he could placate the Likud and other rightist parties. What is your view?

[Uraygat] We are dealing with an Israeli Government that signed an agreement. It should adhere to this agreement otherwise its position will set a serious precedent for developments on other Arab tracks. We cannot accept these Israeli domestic issues as an excuse used by Israel to obstruct its commitments under the agreement.

[Husayn] There is another issue—the situation in the occupied Arab territories and the spiralling of violence between the Palestinians and settlers. Why the serious escalation? Is it due to the failure to implement the agreement?

[Uraygat] The settlers are committing repeated attacks on our villages, camps, and towns protected by the Israeli army. We—and the whole world—have seen the settlers' continuing attacks on our defenseless people. The Palestinian people have long struggled for their freedom and independence. They have found in peace a way to achieve their freedom and independence. But because of Israel's procrastination, because there are no changes on the ground, and because the Israeli attacks and repression continue, the Palestinian people will continue to struggle for freedom and independence. When changes begin on the ground, when citizens begin to feel changes are occurring, I believe the situation will change completely. But because Israel procrastinates, the settlers attack, and the army protects the settlers, things have assumed very serious dimensions.

[Husayn] Is the PLO prepared to establish autonomy in Gaza and Jericho and has it been agreed who will assume tasks in these two areas.

[Uraygat] The Palestinians have been preparing to assume power for over two years. The Palestinian security forces are ready. Preparations are taking place to build the economy. On the level of the Palestinian political life, there are big preparations. I believe that what has delayed the declaration of these Palestinian decisions made some time ago by brother president Abu-'Ammar is Israel's procrastination and its inability to turn the agreement into fact.

PLO Member on Countering Israeli 'Blackmail'

NC2312114493 *Cairo MENA in Arabic* 1015 GMT 23 Dec 93

[Text] Tunis, 23 Dec (MENA)—PLO Executive Committee member Tayseir Khalid has stated that the Palestinian people's political leadership has more than one option to respond to the Israeli policy of blackmail and procrastination.

In a statement to the Tunisian newspaper AL-SHURUQ today, he said the current political opportunity allows the Palestinian leadership to revert to the national option of freezing the accord now that the Zionist concepts and aims regarding implementation of the 13 December accord are evident. If this happens, he added, it will open the door to rearranging the situation in the Palestinian arena to preserve national rights.

Khalid, who represents the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine on the Executive Committee, said the Rabin government has not changed its policy and insists on the same old policy on Jerusalem, settlement activities, and detainees.

Former Negotiator on Need for Complete Agreement

PM2312101793 *London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic* 22 Dec 93 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Former Palestinian Negotiator: Any Agreement Without Resolving Settlement, Jerusalem, and Detainees Issues Meaningless"]

[Text] Ramallah—A former Palestinian negotiator believes that it is necessary for the present Oslo negotiations or any future negotiations to produce a complete agreement on the final phase—an agreement that resolves not only issues like the crossings and Jericho's area but also includes three main issues, namely Jerusalem, settlements, and the release of all detainees without exception, regardless of their political affiliations and ideological inclination, that is in accordance with a reasonable and acceptable timetable, maybe covering a six-month period.

Dr. Mamduh al-'Akr, who was the chairman of the human rights committee in the Washington bilateral negotiations, pointed out that the Palestinians' agreement to defer the Jerusalem and settlement issue must not be understood by the Israeli Government to mean a recognition of its right to go ahead with Judaizing Jerusalem and turning settlement building in the occupied territories into an irrevocable process, so as to make the status quo supported by force a final reality.

Al-'Akr stressed the need for the Palestinians to consolidate a clear clause emphasizing Israel's commitment to freezing settlement building and not changing the features of Jerusalem city before signing the transitional phase agreement, otherwise ignoring this important issue would give the Israeli Government a free hand to do whatever it likes, either by continuing to expand the boundaries of the existing settlements and to build more houses in them, or by completing the plan to Judaize Jerusalem with a view to erasing its Arab identity.

Outlines of 'Constitutional Document' Reported

JN2312100393 *Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic* 23 Dec 93 pp 1, 20

[By Tawfiq 'Abid]

[Text] Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has responded to a series of demands by broad sections of the Palestinian people to carry out democratic reforms within the PLO institutions, to correct the course of negotiations with the Israeli side, and to form a legal committee to draw up a constitutional document for the coming Palestinian state.

Palestinian sources in Amman said that the higher negotiations committee headed by Mahmud 'Abbas, also known as Abu-Mazin, has been revived, as were the memberships of Dr. Nabil Sha'ith, Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, and Sulayman al-Najjab. The sources also noted that the group in charge of decisionmaking within the PLO is leading the negotiating process competently.

The sources added that during a meeting held in Amman last week, the legal committee headed by Jamal al-Surani was preparing a finalized constitutional document for the Palestinian state after the PLO Executive Committee presented its remarks on the draft document.

The sources told AL-DUSTUR that the document does not define the borders of the Palestinian state, leaving these borders open. However, the document does define Jerusalem as the capital and the relationship between the PLO and the national authority in the West Bank and Gaza Strip in terms of having the PLO as its highest authority and as the moral and political entity recognized by the world.

The constitutional document defines the nature of the national authority, saying that it will be a democratic authority based on a separation of powers among the executive, legislative, and judicial branches.

The document stipulates a five-year presidential term that cannot be renewed more than twice while the Palestinian parliament will be elected for a four-year period. However, the document does not define the number of members in this parliament for the time being in order to prevent differences with the Palestine National Council.

The document talks in detail about issues related to party pluralism, freedom of the press, human rights, and the economic system that will be adopted based on a market economy and a free economic order.

The sources noted that the document has been finalized and that it is now on the agenda of the PLO Executive Committee for final approval. The sources added that if this document is approved, it will be published in FILASTIN AL-THAWRAH magazine and the occupied territories' newspapers and will be subject to widespread national and popular discussion.

AL-DUSTUR learned that one of the PLO Executive Committee members is Dr. Anis al-Qasim, who is considered a top law official.

Three 'Arafat Aides Allowed To Return to Gaza

TA2212193893 Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Announcer-read report followed by military affairs correspondent Roni Daniyel video report]

[Text] Israel has acquiesced to a personal request by Yasir 'Arafat and will allow three senior PLO officials to return to their homes in the territories. 'Arafat will appoint the three to key positions in the Palestinian administration. Among the three are two deportees and one fugitive. Our military affairs correspondent Roni Daniyel reports:

Officials in Fatah headquarters in the Gaza Strip are assigning posts and scrambling for power positions. 'Arafat, who is aware of this situation, has asked Israel to enable three of his senior aides—two deportees and one fugitive—to return in order to assume command posts. Israel has acquiesced, and Muhammad Dahlan is now allowed to return. Dahlan, who was deported in 1987, is slated to be in charge of the Gaza Strip on 'Arafat's behalf. Dahlan will be accompanied on his return by Muhammad al-Hindi, who opted for voluntary deportation in 1967. Al-Hindi, who commanded a Fatah squad that tried to down an El-Al jetliner in Rome in 1973, will be Fatah's chief intelligence officer.

The third person permitted to return is Jibril al-Rajub, who was sentenced to life imprisonment and later released on the Jibril prisoner exchange deal. After being deported he recruited the Israeli citizen Refa'el Avraham for the purpose of assassinating Israeli personages.

The date of their return has not been determined. Yasir 'Arafat will make this decision. Arab sources told us, however, that their return is imminent.

Israeli 'Hard-Line' Stance Blamed for Impasse

TA2112201093 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 21 Dec 93 p 11

[Editorial: "The Oslo Talks—Another Empty Circle"]

[Text] The overall impression by negotiators and observers of the Oslo talks is that they failed to achieve their goals and could not even create a mechanism enabling the Palestinian and Israeli negotiators to advance the date of implementing the interim agreement. Differences over what is called by Israel the security issue, constituted the greatest impediment to a breakthrough in the stalemate prevailing for weeks in the Palestinian-Israeli talks. It was this stalemate that caused a delay in implementing the interim agreement and which led to the failure of last week's 'Arafat-Rabin summit in Cairo.

Although the Israeli side announced what it described as some progress in the talks, this announcement could not eclipse the above-mentioned impression. This is because the Israeli sources were unable to specify the sphere in

which progress was made. Moreover, they reaffirmed Israel's commitment to the same hard-line positions. Consequently, stalemate, not progress characterized the talks and the vague results emanating from them.

Although there were reports that the two negotiating delegations needed to consult with their leaderships in Tunis and Israel, this consultation by itself could be an indication of two things: Either the talks have reached an impasse, or there are a number of alternatives and compromises for bridging the gap between the two delegations' positions, from which the higher authorities would have to choose the appropriate one.

The only sign of progress in the Oslo talks was the announcement on resumption of talks at the Palestinian-Israeli Liaison Committee. Despite the fact that the resumption of that committee's talks by itself is no proof of a great achievement at the Oslo talks, this development might substantiate the conviction by observers that the two sides cannot back down from the agreement and the Declaration of Principles. This, even if that were to cause the talks and the summit meetings to drift in empty circles from which it would be impossible to emerge due to Israel's hard-line positions and its insistence on divesting the agreement of any meaning or a real and constructive concept.

Needless to say that invigorating the talks and extricating them from their stalled position depends, first and foremost, on the Israeli stance. That stance, which has set for itself a very high ceiling of requirements and political and security concepts, is preventing a reasonable absorption of logical Palestinian demands. Perhaps the error that still governs the mentality of Israeli negotiators is that they believe that they are dealing with the Palestinians in the stage before the agreement, whereas by accepting the peace option and signing an agreement in principle over, it the Palestinian side thwarted this notion with its requirements and conditions. Unless the Israeli side realizes this fact and behaves accordingly, the talks will slide from one impasse to another and from one stalemate to another without any logic, rationale, or goal.

PLO Seeking Loan To Pay Workers Wages

JN2312082793 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 23 Dec 93 p 1

[By Riyadh Mansur]

[Text] Well-informed Palestinian sources have revealed that PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat is seeking to borrow \$15 million from an Arab country so that he can pay the wages of Fatah members and those working in PLO establishments that have not been operating for months.

The same sources told SAWT AL-SHA'B that the PLO had recently borrowed \$20 million from the Greek Government in accordance with an agreement signed for the Palestinian side by Marwan 'Abd-al-Hamid, the Palestinian affairs coordinator in Damascus.

The sources said that the PLO is seeking in vain to recover money estimated at hundred of thousands of dollars it had extended to the former Yugoslavia, before it was fragmented into a number of embattled republics and regions, as well as to a number of Arab countries, including the Peoples Democratic Republic of Yemen, and a number a African of countries.

The Palestinian sources say that influential parties in the PLO blame Yasir 'Arafat and hold him responsible for advancing this money to countries and parties unable to pay back their debts.

PFLP Denies Approval of Agreement, Police Force

JN2212200493 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Text] A Zionist enemy report the day before yesterday claimed that certain leading cadres in the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] had approved of the Gaza-Jericho agreement and were prepared to join the so-called Palestinian police groups. The PFLP spokesman has made a statement denying claims the Zionist enemy has been making to create confusion among the Front's members and supporters inside Palestine.

The spokesman said the people whose names the enemy television mentioned, especially Jalal Hafiz 'Azizah and Nasir Abu-'Aziz and others, are still carrying out their tasks in the Front's ranks and are committed to its line of rejecting the 'Arafat-Rabin agreement in part and parcel.

The PFLP spokesman challenged the enemy media to provide proof of their allegations, which aim only at casting doubt on the Front's stands.

The two strugglers, 'Azizah and Abu-'Aziz, were expelled from Palestine in 1986 and are still in exile.

Hamas To Propose Alliance Framework at Meeting

TA2212193493 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 22 Dec 93 p 19

[Text] Amman, QUDS PRESS—A source close to Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] has said that an important meeting by the 10 factions opposed to the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles is to be convened in Damascus on 25 December.

The source, who asked to remain anonymous, added that the meeting, which is expected to be held at the level of the factions' general secretaries, will approve the organizational framework of an alliance that the 10 factions recently agreed to establish.

The 10 factions, which include, besides Hamas, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and the Palestinian Salvation Front factions, whose headquarters is in Damascus, had agreed to develop the 10

factions into an alliance called the Palestinian Forces Alliance. The political program of this alliance was approved recently.

The Palestinian source disclosed the organizational framework which Hamas intends to propose at the meeting, following its approval by the movement's institutions.

The proposed framework calls for setting up two levels of leadership in the new alliance:

The first one will be called the Central Leadership of the Alliance. This is the leading body that will assume the task of formulating positions, programs, and policies based on the alliance's political program.

According to the proposal, this body will consist of 50 members representing the 10 factions and some independent figures. Hamas is asking for 40 percent of the membership in this body. The other factions are to have 40 percent and the independents 20 percent.

A source in Hamas justified its demand for this ratio by saying that "the movement considers its real weight in the Palestinian street to be more than 40 percent."

Referring to the operations carried out by Hamas and its ability to provoke the Palestinian street, the Palestinian source stressed that "Hamas bears the heaviest burden in confronting the PLO-Israeli accord."

According to sources in Hamas, "the movement believes that its active presence in the Palestinian arena is the most important impediment to the accord and the most crucial element in the plans to fail it. This qualifies it to obtain such a share of the membership." The sources stressed that the movement's representatives will not back down from this demand.

The Hamas proposal calls for the Central Leadership of the Alliance to hold its meetings every six months, unless something urgent happens requiring an unscheduled meeting. The leadership's decisions will be adopted by a two-thirds majority.

The second level of the alliance's leadership will be the Executive Committee. This is the Central Leadership's executive tool and will supervise the implementation of approved programs and policies. The Executive Committee is to consist of 15 members from among the Central Leadership. Ten members will represent the 10 factions—one member for each faction—and five members representing the independents will be chosen by the Central Leadership. This committee is to hold its meetings periodically once every month.

Hamas will propose that an independent be appointed as Deputy chairman while the 10 factions will alternate the committee's chairmanship among themselves. Moreover, a permanent headquarters will be set up for the Executive Committee manned by a secretary general and

secretariat employees who will follow up implementation of the policies and programs agreed on by the committee.

Sources in Hamas emphasized that the movement rejects the suggestion that the independents should not participate in the alliance until this plan is finally worked out. These sources said that Hamas "insists on incorporating the independents in the plan from the first day so that they would participate in all its phases." The sources added that the independents "represent an important sector that has weight in the Palestinian arena. One should not ignore them or impose the will of the factions over them."

The sources said that Hamas does not expect its perception of the organizational framework to be approved easily, but they affirmed the movement's insistence on the proposed framework. They noted that "strict instructions" in this connection have been given to the movement's delegation, which is expected to be headed by Hamas political bureau member Engineer 'Imad al-'Alami, who will represent the movement at the 25 December meeting.

Hamas Rally Criticizes 'Arafat's Leadership

FA22121941943 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Text] Our Arab affairs correspondent Ehud Ya'ari reports that a rally by Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] supporters was held at Bir Zayt University yesterday. The spokesmen at the rally urged resuming the momentum of the intifadah. They charged that Yasser 'Arafat—through his negotiations with Israel—has brought about a decline in the uprising in the territories, and that the financial support given to the PLO has perverted the intifadah.

Breakthrough in PLO-Saudi Ties Expected

JN22120421943 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 22 Dec 93 p 1

[By Tawfiq 'Abid]

[Text] Palestinian sources in Amman are expecting a breakthrough in Palestinian-Saudi relations within the next few days.

The sources told AL-DUSTUR that Major General Naze Yusef, member of the Fatah Central Committee and member of the Palestinian delegation to the committee on withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho, is currently visiting Saudi Arabia where he has met with many Saudi officials.

AL-DUSTUR has learned that Maj. Gen. Naze briefed ranking Saudi officials on the results of Palestinian-Israeli negotiations held in Egypt and the Palestinian position on basic issues, especially the Israeli withdrawal and its repercussions as well as the ground, sea, and air

crossing points between the Gaza Strip and Egypt and between Jericho and Jordan.

It is noteworthy that Maj. Gen. Nasr is currently one of the closest Palestinian figures to President Yasir 'Arafat. He has been nominated for a senior security position in the Palestinian police. The Palestinian sources did not rule out the possibility of ongoing talks with Saudi officials in order to pave the way for a visit by President 'Arafat to Riyadh and for the financial aid which Saudi Arabia will offer to the Palestinian National Authority in Gaza and Jericho.

PLO Official Denies Reports

JN2312090593 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 23 Dec 93 p 38

[Text] Amman, QUDS PRESS—A ranking Palestinian embassy official in Amman has denied reports about an imminent improvement in Palestinian relations with the Gulf countries.

Khalid Mismar, official in charge of Palestinian information in Amman said: We wish that our relations would improve with all the Gulf countries. However,

there have been no signs to this end yet. Mismar, a Fatah Revolutionary Council member, said that reports published about an improvement in relations with Saudi Arabia are not true and that the state of affairs remains the same.

In a statement to QUDS PRESS, the Palestinian official described the improvement in Palestinian-Saudi relations following the estrangement resulting from the Gulf war as limited.

Commenting on the current visit to Saudi Arabia by Nasr Yusuf, a PLO Executive Committee member and one of the closest figures to Yasir 'Arafat, Mismar said that it is a private visit to see the PLO Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, Subhi Abu-Karsh, who is hospitalized there for treatment. Mismar noted that Yusuf did not meet with any Saudi officials.

Mismar said that the PLO had expected its relations with the Gulf countries to improve following the initiation of the peace talks. He said: We were expecting that things would change. But, so far nothing tangible has taken place.

Egypt**Musa Comments on Peace Talks, Regional Issues**

NC2212162693 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that Egypt is currently holding contacts with the PLO, Israel, and other countries involved in the peace process on continuing the current negotiations. He said Egypt hopes that these negotiations will lead to an agreement between the two sides to clearly implement the contents of the Palestinian-Israeli declaration of principles.

On the 'Arafat-Rabin meeting in Cairo, 'Amr Musa said in press statements today that the date for the meeting has not been fixed yet.

On the other hand, the foreign minister welcomed the Turkish foreign minister's visit to Egypt on Saturday [25 December]. He said: The two countries will discuss Turkish-Egyptian cooperation and the situation in the Mediterranean Sea, the Black Sea, and Bosnia.

The foreign minister commented on Egypt's acceptance as an observer in the Economic Cooperation Organization of the Black Sea Countries. He said this acceptance derives its importance from the fact that the two areas are separate and because there is cooperation between the national groupings of the Black Sea and the Mediterranean Sea, as well as between the countries bordering these seas. The foreign minister affirmed that Egypt is linked to these two regions by important ties and that there are fields available for Egyptian cooperation with the countries of the two regions.

Further on Disappearance of Former Libyan Minister**Musa Cited on Disappearance**

PM2212164393 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 21 Dec 93 pl

[Unattributed report: "Egypt Threatens to Take a Firm Stand Against Those Involved in al-Kikhya Case"]

[Text] Cairo, London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa announced yesterday that Cairo was seriously following all developments related to the disappearance of Mansur al-Kikhya, the former Libyan foreign minister, who vanished from Cairo on 10 December. He emphasized that measures would be taken and that Egypt would take a firm stand against anyone proved to be involved in this matter. Musa described the former Libyan minister as a good man and expressed regret at his sudden disappearance.

Cairo has received Libyan assurances denying Libyan authorities' and organs' responsibility for al-Kikhya's disappearance. The Egyptian Interior Ministry intensified its guard around the Libyan opposition figures living in Cairo after the disappearance.

Informed Egyptian sources have stated that these assurances were conveyed to Cairo through the delegation of Egyptian political parties which visited Libya to attend the conference of popular forces held there. That was during the delegation's meeting with Minister Jum'ah al-Fazzan who stressed that Egypt should know that his country had nothing to do with al-Kikhya's disappearance.

Yusuf Amin Shakir has denied reports that he was one of the last people to meet with al-Kikhya in Cairo before his disappearance.

That denial came in a message, carrying Shakir's name, received by AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT. Shakir said that he "had not met with al-Kikhya since the early nineties, since the first three months of 1991 to be specific."

He added: "I was not in Egypt when Mansur al-Kikhya was there. Had I been there I would have met with al-Kikhya. That would not have been strange for we had met on many occasions and had numerous dialogues in which we were mostly in disagreement but sometimes in agreement."

Wife Seeks Help in Locating al-Kikhya

JN2212203093 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 20 Dec 93 p 4

[Report by Bisharah Shirbil on interview with Baha' al-Kikhya, wife of Libyan dissident Mansur al-Kikhya]

[Excerpts] London—Baha' al-'Umari, wife of former Libyan Foreign Minister Mansur al-Kikhya, who disappeared 11 days ago, has called for a rapid move to determine her husband's whereabouts. She urged the Egyptian Government to employ its influence not only inside Egypt, but also in Libya to reveal the truth and return him safely.

In an interview with AL-HAYAH in London yesterday, Mrs. al-Kikhya said her last contact with her husband took place on Friday, 10 December, the same day he disappeared from his hotel in Cairo, where he was attending a conference organized by the Arab Human Rights Organization.

[Shirbil] What is the latest information about your husband's disappearance?

[Al-Kikhya] So far, it is not known how he disappeared, nor with whom he went out and how. His belongings remained in the hotel. His insulin injections, which he uses to treat diabetes, also remained in the hotel. I suspect that he might have gone to meet with somebody. He normally goes out after dinner. He does not refuse to meet with anyone. He is an excellent man of dialogue. He even met with Ahmad Qadhdhaf al-Damm, al-Qadhdhafi's cousin, in Paris three years ago. He explained to him his attitude and terms for talking with the regime. His terms call for accepting political pluralism in Libya, ensuring freedoms, and accepting the opposition as a group, not as individuals.

[Shirbil] When was his latest contact with the regime's supporters?

[Al-Kikhya] It was a month ago, during his presence in Geneva, but I do not know with whom. [passage omitted]

[Shirbil] Is it possible that Mr. Mansur al-Kikhya is in Libya now?

[Al-Kikhya] I address this question to the Egyptian authorities. A major conference such as the one that was attended by Mansur must have been under observation. At any rate, I have no answer now. Maybe he was kidnapped to Libya. Maybe he is still in Egypt.

[Shirbil] Men of the [Libyan] regime say that the regime has bought him.

[Al-Kikhya] This is nonsense. Those who know Mansur do not believe that. He did not want posts, money, or prestige. He is a descendent of an old family. He was a foreign minister and a Libyan UN envoy. He resigned after the start of the killing of people and oppositionists in 1980. He took nothing from Libya but his suitcase. [passage omitted]

Libyan Dissident Interviewed

NC2212173893 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 19 Dec 93
pp 1, 6

[Report by Sa'id 'Abd-al-Khaliq]

[Excerpts] Muhammad Fa'iz Jibril, representative of the Libyan National Salvation Front, yesterday disclosed new information in the case involving the disappearance of Mansur al-Kikhya, former Libyan foreign minister and an opponent of the regime of Colonel Mu'ammār al-Qadhafi.

Jibril said that al-Kikhya was abducted by agents of the Libyan regime, who transported him to Libya where they are holding him hostage in a move aimed at pressuring the Libyan opposition to stop their campaign against the regime. Jibril said that the abduction may mark the beginning of a campaign to abduct Libyan dissidents abroad. [passage omitted]

In an exclusive interview with AL-WAFD, Jibril talked about the last moments preceding al-Kikhya's disappearance. Jibril said that al-Kikhya set out to meet an official of the Libyan regime in Cairo. Al-Kikhya told a Libyan citizen who was with him that he was going to meet that official but asked him not to come along because he was concerned about that citizen's safety. Al-Kikhya then went to the meeting but never came back. [passage omitted]

Jibril revealed that al-Kikhya's wife found a typewritten and unsigned message last Tuesday [14 December] in her mailbox three days after al-Kikhya's disappearance. The message said: "I am a good friend of Mansur al-Kikhya. I want you to know that al-Qadhafi personally asked

Egypt to abduct al-Kikhya and other Libyan dissidents in Cairo in return for a large sum of money that the Egyptian Government requested but the Libyan Government was reluctant to provide." The wife gave the mysterious message to the U.S. Embassy in Paris and notified the French security organs of its contents. Libyan opposition in Cairo notified the Egyptian security organs of the message's contents.

Jibril expressed the belief that the message was designed to blackmail the Egyptian authorities and create the impression that these authorities are involved in al-Kikhya's abduction. The message, he added, was an attempt by the Libyan regime to drive a wedge between the Libyan opposition and the Egyptian regime and persuade Libyan opposition leaders that Cairo is not a safe place for them. [passage omitted]

Editorial Discusses Libyan Role

NC2212074493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0605 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Text] Cairo, 22 Dec (MENA)—In its editorial today, AL-AHRAM writes on the disappearance of Mansur al-Kikhya, a former Libyan foreign minister who later joined the opposition. The paper notes that in their comments on the issue, Arab and foreign papers say that some Libyan elements may have kidnapped al-Kikhya while he was in Egypt to attend the congress of the Arab Human Rights Organization and smuggled him to Libya.

AL-AHRAM emphasizes that Egypt harbors feelings of amity and fraternity toward the sisterly Libyan people and thinks too highly of them to believe that some of their members may have become involved in piracy as a profession or have resorted to methods of kidnapping in the dark to serve a purpose that is not in line with neighborliness and not justified by any explanation or law.

The paper adds that Egypt maintains a gallant and noble stance beside Libya in its crisis with the West and wants nothing more than reciprocal treatment. The paper points out that if the Libyan leadership sees any of its opposition members as an enemy that deserves to be kidnapped, tortured, and terrified, we tell this leadership that Egypt went beyond this thinking long ago and now believes in every citizen's right to express his free opinion without fear or terror.

Libya's Invitations to Terrorists Assessed

NC2112153293 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 15 Dec 93 p 3

[From the "Good Morning" column by Sa'id Sunbul]

[Text] It seems that Colonel Mu'ammār al-Qadhafi has lost all hope about the possibility of dealing with the West. He has begun to use threats, promises, and intimidation once again. In fact, he has gone even further and has started inviting some terrorist leaders to come to Libya and meet with him.

Col. al-Qadhdhafi, to be honest, has made immense and gigantic efforts to become closer to the West in recent months and to improve his image and that of his country before the international community. He stopped attacking the United States, Britain, and other Western countries. He even began to praise U.S. President Bill Clinton and British Prime Minister John Major. He used the most beautiful adjectives to describe them. As if this wasn't enough, he even went so far as to condemn terrorism publicly and in front of the whole world. He promised to remove terrorists from Libya and stop all material support for them.

At the same time, Libyan media stopped attacking the United States and the West. The popular marches that used to roam the streets of Libyan cities and chant slogans on the collapse of the West came to a halt.

Col. al-Qadhdhafi thought that this change would be countered by a similar change by the United States, Britain, and France. This did not happen, however, and the crisis continued. The United States and Britain insist on trying the two Libyans accused of blowing up the U.S. civilian airliner before a U.S. or British court, while Libya rejects this request and proposes trying them in a third neutral country.

The United States, along with Britain and France, continues to put pressure on Libya. It recently extracted a new resolution from the Security Council that stipulates that the economic sanctions on Libya should be tightened and continued to be enforced if it does not hand over the two suspects.

It was natural for this resolution to anger Col. al-Qadhdhafi, who seems to have lost hope of reaching an understanding with the West. Once again, he has started calling for conferences to be held, and he had started attacking the Security Council, which he described as a puppet in the hands of the West. This was not enough for the colonel. He invited—according to radio and news agency reports—terrorist leaders such as Abu-Nidal [Sabri al-Banna], Ahmad Jibril, and the leaders of the Irish Republican Army to come to Libya and meet with him.

The popular conferences and revolutionary meetings the colonel is calling for are, in fact, conferences for talk and will not have any effect or influence. Their effects will not go beyond the walls of the halls they are held in, and everyone knows this.

We understand the secret of the colonel's revolution. What is incomprehensible, however, is that Libya is opening its doors to terrorism and terrorists once again. This call will not frighten anyone. It will not intimidate or frighten the West. On the contrary, it provides the justification for increasing the pressure on Libya, stepping up the sanctions against it, and perhaps dealing it a military blow.

In addition, it is not acceptable for some Libyans to once again call for carrying out assassinations against the

enemies and opposers of the regime. These are operations that have harmed the Libyan regime and have never benefited it.

The whole world condemns, rejects, and fights terrorism. It is in Libya's interest to join the global stand on this issue so that it will gain the world's sympathy for its crisis, instead of becoming enemies with it.

Libya Urged To Accept Arab League Role in Crisis

NC2312090693 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 19 Dec 93
p 9

[Commentary by Ihsan Bakr: "The Deadlock...and the Solution"]

[Text] We believe that imminent dangers threaten fraternal Libya—dangers from outside and inside the country. All the reasons stem from the Lockerbie case and its repercussions, which appear to be endless. A solution to the Libyan crisis does not lie in the adoption of irascible stands, such as condemning the United Nations or the West. It also does not lie in declaring desperate stands or organizing popular conferences and rallies inside the Jamahiriya and inviting opposition parties from all over the Arab homeland to denounce and condemn the West and imperialism and raise quixotic and hollow slogans from past eras that do not offer any steps for breaking out of the difficult dead end that Libya is in now.

The Security Council's international sanctions against Libya have been tightened on the pretext that the Libyan authorities have not implemented the international resolutions and have refused to hand over the two Libyans said to be behind the explosion aboard the U.S. plane over Lockerbie, Scotland, at the end of 1988. The economic siege of Libya has been tightened with the recent imposition of new sanctions against Libya in accordance with Security Council Resolution 883, which went into effect at the beginning of this month. The resolution calls for freezing about \$15 billion in Libyan oil assets abroad and includes a ban on the export of oil equipment. The crisis is bound to be aggravated.

All signs indicate that the possibility of mediation has been eliminated and that all the sincere efforts made to find an honorable way out have failed. There were hints from Tripoli that there would be changes in Libyan policy, but the lines have become tangled once again. There is no single stand that can help the mediators, but there are many examples of what is coming from within Libya itself:

Libyan President Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi attacked the West very violently and accused the Western countries of terrorism, shooting down planes, and killing children. He called on them to review their calculations and stressed: "There can be no mediation with us from now on."

In a speech he delivered from an open car at a mass rally near Tripoli, Colonel al-Qadhdhafi told thousands of Libyans: "I am sending your loud voices to the capitals of the West. Your challenging voices are stronger than the Security Council and the Western forces that are allied against the people."

In a desperate tone, filled with bitterness and challenge, Col. al-Qadhdhafi said: "They want hostility and hatred. Then let hostility and hatred exist between us and them until the day of resurrection. Let the Mediterranean Sea turn into a red one. If they do not want peace, then down with peace. Let the white dove be slaughtered, and the red and black flags of war be hoisted. We welcome war. They are the cowards, and they will be the ones who retreat because they are greedy middlemen and merchants."

The colonel then asked: "Will the fate of the Libyan people be decided in Paris, London, or Washington?" He added: "We are the people who decided the fate of London, on whose empire the sun never set. There is fighting in London's streets now. The sun has set on Britain, and it has become a divided country. The Scottish people are the ones contacting us and asking for liberation from London."

A few days before al-Qadhdhafi's speech, the Libyan papers launched a fierce attack on the Arab countries. AL-SHAMS attacked "the silence" of the Arab nation over the siege of Libya. It described it as a submissive and defeated nation that breakfasts on shame, lunches on scandal, and dines on humiliation and ignominy. It questioned the reasons for the Arab League's silence over the siege imposed on Libya!!

The important thing is that, two days after the colonel's speech, it was announced in Tripoli that the Libyan Jamahiriyyah pledged to suppress all those opposing Col. al-Qadhdhafi's regime. The People's Congresses called for shedding the blood of Major 'Abd-al- Mun'im al-Huni, a member of the former Revolution Command Council. A statement issued by the People's Congresses and carried by the official LIBYAN NEWS AGENCY said that the masses are ready to crush any treason and crush the traitors and spies who are plotting against the people.

The statement describes al-Huni as "a traitor, a spy, and a stray dog," declares him stripped from his Libyan nationality, and calls on his family to sanction his killing and denounce him.

A more serious development came last Sunday, when the Libyan leader made a speech at al-'Aziziyah, 40 km south of Tripoli, in which he called on extreme radical groups in the Arab World to come to Tripoli. The invitation included Palestinian leaders who oppose President Yasir 'Arafat and the self-rule agreement.

The colonel said: "Because the Western powers refuse to negotiate with them, I call on Abu-Nidal [Sabri al-Banna], wherever he is; Ahmad Jibril; and Abu-al-'Abbas [Muhammad 'Abbas] to come to Libya. I will meet with them personally and openly."

Al-Qadhdhafi addressed Abu-Nidal, Jibril, and Abu-al-'Abbas by saying: I do not support your "terrorist" actions, but I do support you "struggle." He described them as "the true leaders of the Palestinian people." Al-Qadhdhafi said that he is ready to receive Abu-Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha] and all the "honorable" leaders of the Palestinian resistance. The invitation was not confined to the Palestinians. The Libyan leader called on the IRA leaders to come to Libya for consultations. We invite them to come to Libya, and I am ready to receive them openly and in broad daylight "to advise them not to carry out any military acts. I openly support their legitimate and sacred cause," he said. Al-Qadhdhafi added that "Ireland has a right to be free and united."

We cite the above statements by Libya's topmost official to prove that the "Libyan question" has become impervious to either comprehension or solution. No one disputes the colonel's right to be angry and bitter about the West's treatment of his country, which is biased by all accounts. The West applies double standards to Libya and has shown no concern toward the well-being of its people and regime. This is a fact.

The question is how to get Libya out of its debacle. Much effort has been made to achieve practical solutions that would preserve the dignity and independent decision-making of the Libyan state and people, and almost succeeded in paving the ground for an agreement.

However, Libya's latest invitation to terrorist leaders and its attempt to divide Palestinian ranks and interfere in the domestic affairs of Western countries will block all the paths trodden by mediators, who have good intentions toward Libya and its safety.

An impending danger looms over sister Libya. The issue is no longer one of a beleaguered Arab regime but of an entire nation that lives under a blockade and a country that may turn into a pariah state dwelling beyond the campfire of the international community.

We believe that the only hope to break the diabolic noose around Libya's neck is for the colonel to issue a decision, albeit difficult, placing the entire crisis into the care of the organization that is a haven for all Arabs: the Arab League.

Let Col. al-Qadhdhafi empower Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid to take whatever measures he deems fit to tackle the situation. Once this is done, hope will emerge for an Arab solution to the worsening crisis. Iraq's fate has been damaging enough for the Arab nation, a nation whose troubles are rooted in its division. It is fine to rant about imperialism and colonialism, but it is better to put our own house in order.

Editorial on Nuclear Weapons, UN Resolution

NC2312120893 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 20 Dec 93
p 9

[Editorial: "The Middle East and Nuclear Arms"]

[Text] In a step that is no less important than the step taken to issue a resolution supporting the process of finding a political settlement in the Middle East, the UN General Assembly adopted a new resolution supporting the establishment of a nuclear weapons free zone in the Middle East. This should be preceded by a major step: Nuclear countries in the region should agree to submit their installations to supervision by the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA]. The importance of such a step is that it befits the spirit of peaceful settlement that is taking root in the region despite the obstacles and hindrances it is encountering. It also confirms that nuclear superiority naturally contradicts the desire to establish peace and stability.

It can be said that this resolution contains both implicit and explicit support for Egypt's policy on this matter, which is based on rejecting violence and superiority, as well as removing all weapons of mass destruction from the Middle East. President Mubarak has always had a positive call in this field.

Despite the fact that the resolution adopted by the UN General Assembly was not unanimous, it expressed the desire of the world's countries to get rid of all kinds of highly destructive weapons. Of course, Israel's stand is believed to be the cornerstone in the process of turning this resolution into a tangible reality. It is the only state in the region that has nuclear reactors and exceptional capability in the nuclear field. All international circles believe it is highly likely that Israel has nuclear weapons. Its stand is based on not allowing any kind of international supervision of its installations. This is a regrettable state of affairs that contradicts everything Israel sometimes claims regarding its commitment to a political settlement of its problems with its Arab neighbors. Israel's agreeing to allow the IAEA to inspect its installations is crucial to the establishment of peace and stability in the region. In addition, such a step would change the international resolution into a tangible reality.

Information Minister on Coverage of Terrorism

NC2212195693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1340 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Text] Cairo, 22 Dec (MENA)—Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif has announced that terrorism is being confronted in the media by advocating sound religious teachings and Islamic tolerance so as to expose and confront terrorism.

In a statement to the Tourism, Information, and Culture Committee of the People's Assembly at a meeting it held today under the chairmanship of Committee Chairman

Salah al-Taruti, the information minister said that Egyptian media have managed, with great courage and bravery, to expose the bloody terrorism. They have mobilized all the values among the Egyptian people to confront it.

The information minister cited al-Azhar Grand Imam Shaykh Jad-al-Haqq 'Ali Jad al-Haqq, who said that the best way for a dialogue with extremism is direct contact and that this dialogue has a certain place. The grand imam also noted that dealing with the masses is another issue.

The information minister clarified that Egypt is confronting an onslaught from abroad. He said there are forces whose ideas have converged and they have found an opportunity in what is happening in Egypt to undermine its stability with the objective of hindering its vanguard role.

On the other hand, Safwat al-Sharif announced that Egypt will soon start experimental transmission in January on the new international [television] channel for six hours a day. This, he added, will improve Egypt's image, which has been tarnished by terrorism.

The information minister revealed that as part of efforts to look to the media horizons of the future, the French company "Aerospatiale" has been asked to carry out a study on the feasibility of an Egyptian satellite, the proposed name of which is "Nilesat," so that Egypt will have its own media capabilities. He noted that some financing of this satellite will be offered to investors, along the lines of the City of the Arts which is currently being built in Madinat Sittah Uktubar. He highlighted Egypt's need to enter the space age with an Egyptian satellite.

Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif affirmed that the objective of Egyptian media strategy are media that are capable of serving the citizens' natural and legitimate rights to be well informed and up to date and to obtain their fair share of culture.

He said that during President Husni Mubarak's time Egyptian media have succeeded in reaching out to every citizen in any place so that they can be master of their own potentials. He noted that a huge microwave network has been set up in Egypt so that no one can tamper with Egypt's media potentials.

He added that with the beginning of the communications revolution, it was necessary for us to be active and for national media to be able to preserve the identity, culture, and civilization of Egypt, since we are a people with a civilization. He noted that no country in the world can build a fence around itself. We cannot go against the natural course of things. We need to have a competent base for media production.

He affirmed that the establishment of the City of Arts and Media Production in Madinat Sittah Uktubar was to realize this objective and preserve Egypt's vanguard

position in culture and the arts, since Egypt is prepared for such a position, having so many writers, intellectuals, and artists. He noted that if Egypt does not assume the vanguard position in such matters, no one else will be able to preserve the Arab nation.

He clarified that the Egyptian Space Channel was launched within this framework, and soon the International Channel will be launched. In the next few weeks, the process of transmission to the United States and Canada will be finalized.

[In a related report on Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif's address to the Tourism, Information, and Culture Committee of the People's Assembly, Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic at 1500 GMT adds the following:

["Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif has affirmed that equality is being observed among all national and party newspapers in the television reports on what these papers publish. He said that the media apparatus is not afraid of presenting any topic to the public.

["This came in the open dialogue the information minister held after the statement he delivered before the People's Assembly's Tourism, Information, and Culture Committee meeting today.

["The information minister added that the government is shedding light on the future goals of economic reform. He noted that entrenching democracy is the great responsibility of the media. Egyptian television shows the debates in the People's Assembly and Consultative Council, thus entrenching democratic concepts by portraying all opinions on any subject discussed by the members of the majority group, the opposition, or the independents".]

Imprisoned 'Extremists' Plan 'Unified Front'

NC2212221793 Cairo AL-'ARABI in Arabic 20 Dec 93
pp 1, 8

[Report by Muhammad Mahmud]

[Text] According to Egyptian security sources, leading extremists in Egyptian prisons have recently been trying to form a unified front for Egyptian extremists, along the lines of the Islamic Salvation Front in Algeria. The front is to bring together extremist leaders at home and abroad in one organizational framework aimed to preclude the emergence of new rifts within the largest and most active organizations, particularly the Islamic Group and al-Jihad.

Al-Jihad is still smarting from the breakaway of a new faction, the Vanguard of Conquest. The growing rift between the leaders of al-Jihad and those of the Vanguard of Conquest have led to mutual death threats and accusations of treason and subservience to Iran.

The idea of a united front is not a new one. 'Abbud al-Zumur [purported head of the military wing of al-Jihad] raised it two years before his arrest. According to

the same sources, communications intercepted in Egyptian prisons reveal plans to put that idea into practice. Intensive contacts are also underway in Cairo, Peshawar, and Sanaa in this regard.

Imprisoned extremist leaders have agreed to support the proposal and seek its early implementation. A written document spelling out al-Zumur's idea has been prepared. AL-'ARABI learned that the proposed idea contains three major points:

First: The faithful must close their ranks. Unity among the militants is a must, as there is no cause for division.

Second: Though inferior to complete unity, an Islamic Front is advisable in the absence of that unity. By allowing every trend to coordinate with other trends while maintaining its own independence, the front would be a guarantee against fragmentation and its drawbacks.

Third: Every group should put its own house in order as a step toward forming a command body for the Islamic Movements throughout the world [tashkil qiyadi li al-harakat al-islamiyah fi shatta biqa' al-ard]. Such a body would be in charge of planning, organization, and conflict management.

According to the same sources, these three points recall al-Zumur's past ideas concerning a plan for unity. The revival of this plan at this very moment is of great significance, the sources say, for it indicates that consultations are actually taking place between the Islamic Group and al-Jihad and that some alliance is in the pipeline. Unity plans so far seem unhampered by the differences raging abroad over the leadership of the alliance and the method of returning to Cairo, the same differences that wrecked similar extremist plans in 1984 and 1992.

Authorities Arrest 50 'Fundamentalists' in South

NC2212201493 Paris AFP in English 1747 GMT 22
Dec 93

[Text] Asyut, Egypt, Dec 22 (AFP)—Egyptian authorities have arrested 50 Moslem fundamentalists suspected of involvement in clashes between extremists and the police in southern Egypt, police said Wednesday [22 December].

The incidents late Sunday and early Monday left 13 dead: eight policemen, including a general, four extremists and a passerby.

Police sources said the suspects in the communities of Dayrut, al-Qusiyah, Abu-Tij and Manfalut had planned to launch new attacks against senior police and government officials in the region to mark the new year.

Among those arrested since Tuesday is Ahmad Diya', who police said was involved in the attack Sunday night in Asyut 380 kilometers (240 miles) south of Cairo that killed the general and four policemen.

Militants hurled a grenade at the car of General Muhammad Qasim Tu'aymah, killing him, his driver and bodyguard in downtown Asyut. The general was chief inspector of police for Asyut Province.

Elsewhere, police uncovered two caches of automatic weapons and ammunition in a village near Qina 640 kilometers (400 miles) south of the Egyptian capital, the police said.

The owners of the two caches admitted they had sold arms to activists of the Jamiah Islamiyyah, the main fundamentalist movement in Upper (southern) Egypt, they said.

On Monday Egypt hanged six more Islamic militants convicted of plotting to overthrow President Hosni Mubarak's secular government, bringing to 29 the number of fundamentalists executed since June.

The war between the government and Islamic fundamentalists has claimed the lives of 89 policemen and 84 militants since March 1992. Most of the police losses have been suffered in southern Egypt, a bastion of fundamentalism.

Islamic Group Claims Credit for Killing

JN2212172693 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 20 Dec 93 p 6

[By Muhammad Salah-al-Din]

[Excerpt] Cairo—The Islamic Group has claimed responsibility for the assassination of Colonel Ahmad Kamal Sha'lan on 18 December in Cairo's eastern al-Matariyah area. Egyptian security sources said "the three terrorists involved in the crime were identified." They indicated that the perpetrators monitored the movements of the dead officer for some time before waiting for him near his home. Descriptions provided by several eyewitnesses were found to match those of three members of the military wing of the Islamic Group.

AL-HAYAH received a faxed statement yesterday signed by the Islamic Group saying that members of the group killed Col. Sha'lan, an antiterror state security officer. The statement misspelled the name of the dead officer as Sha'ban, while his correct name is Sha'lan.

The statement says the operation was to avenge "the recent execution of three men, at the forefront of whom was Muhammad Ahmad Hammudah." [passage omitted]

Minister Urges Council To 'Purge' Islam of 'Blemishes'

NC2212205793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1555 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Excerpt] Cairo, 22 Dec (MENA)—Awqaf Minister Dr. Muhammad 'Ali Mahjub stressed that Egypt is qualified to lead the Islamic world due to its central position,

moderation, and a well-attested historic role in propagating Islam and explaining religious principles to the sons of the Muslim world.

This remark was made during the minister's meeting today with the newly formed Higher Council for Islamic Affairs [HCIA].

Dr. al-Mahjub referred to the importance of the role that the HCIA should play in presenting ideas and counter-ideas, and said that scholars should purge the Islamic arena of all its blemishes. He stressed that fighting extremism and violence or exploiting the freedom of thinking should not be used as an excuse by some parties to harm the essence of the true religion of Islam.

The awqaf minister announced that the new HCIA formation includes 120 senior Muslim scholars from Egypt and the Islamic world. He said that among these members are 46 awqaf and Islamic affairs ministers or ones who do their jobs, 24 members who represent the organizations and bodies working in the Islamic field, and four persons from abroad appointed in appreciation of their services in propagating Islam.

The council includes members appointed by virtue of their position. They are the former awqaf ministers, the al-Azhar secretary, the Al-Azhar University rector, the secretary general of the Islamic Research Center, the chairman of the Higher Council for Youth and Sports, the chairmen of the boards of directors of national and party papers, the chairman of the National Specialized Councils, the chairman of the Scientific Research Academy, and the awqaf ministry's first under secretary. [passage omitted]

Memorandum of Understanding Signed With World Bank

NC2312102693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2130 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Text] Cairo, 22 Dec (MENA)—A memorandum of understanding was signed this evening between Egypt and the World Bank. The memorandum includes the agreement by both sides on the next stage of the Egyptian economic reform program. The memorandum emphasized the importance of developing the work force and projects that create jobs or ease the burden on low-income people. It also focused on projects in the areas of education, health, rural development, services, and production, particularly in Lower Egypt.

The memorandum was signed by Dr. Yusuf Butrus Ghali, minister of state for international cooperation, and Ram Shira [name as received], Middle East director for the World Bank and head of the delegation. The World Bank delegation arrived in Cairo three days ago and held talks with Dr. Kamal al-Janzuri, deputy prime minister and planning minister; Dr. 'Atif 'Ubayd, minister of the public business sector and minister of state for administrative development; and Dr. Yusuf Butrus Ghali. The talks dealt with the annual review of Egyptian

economic progress. Both sides also reviewed the economic strategy, priority economic projects, and the issues that will be discussed at the annual meeting of the consultative group at its regional headquarters in Paris at end of January. The consultative group includes the creditor countries and the various international financing establishments.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Warns Press Against Attacking Clinton

LD2112164493 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1445 GMT 21 Dec 93

[Text] Tripoli, 21 Dec (JANA)—Brother Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the revolution, has read with anger what some Libyan newspapers have written about the person of U.S. President Clinton.

Al-Qadhdhafi has asked, for the second time, that Libyan newspapers do not attack President Clinton personally or politically and said that Clinton should not, by any means, be treated as Reagan and Bush were treated.

He stressed that the issue would be submitted to the press prosecution authority if the Libyan press continued attacking Clinton and the democratic administration because—despite the fact that the Libyan press in the Great Jamahiriyyah is free and popular—the Libyan press would be contradicting the Libyan political position toward world states in such a case.

Morocco

Finance Minister Outlines Draft Budget

LD2212110593 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 1716 GMT 21 Dec 93

[Speech by Finance Minister Mohamed Sagou to the House of Representatives in Rabat—live]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Mr. Speaker: The general debate that has taken place in your venerable house on the government program has made it possible to put forward views and ideas on the broad outlines of the program that the government intends to implement in the economic, social, cultural and foreign policy sectors. The draft budget that I have the honor of presenting to you will enable all of us to exchange views on the economic, financial, and social policies that the government will carry out in the 1994 financial year.

Before starting to outline the draft budget presented to you, it seems useful that I should review before you the prevailing economic and financial climate and the options that were considered when this draft was prepared. Mr. Speaker: You know that the economies of various countries have now become interconnected, and the economy has become so international in character

that no country can now live outside the international market of products, services, and capitals. You know, too, that our country has always chosen the policy of openness to the outside world. While benefiting a great deal from this openness, our country is also affected by some negative developments in the international economic situation.

In 1992-1993, this situation was unsatisfactory on the economic level, especially in the European countries which to us still constitute the main economic, commercial and financial partners. [passage omitted]

It was necessary, because of world recession and continuing drought, to review the forecasts we drew up at the end of last year. During the 1993 budget, we had forecast a 6.5 percent increase in gross national income. We projected limiting the treasury deficit to one percent and the deficit of the current account of the balance of payments between us and foreign countries to 1.5 percent. But the results obtained by the end of this year were not at that level. The rate of growth did not exceed one percent, so that the treasury and current account deficits are respectively 1.7 percent and 2.3 percent.

The negative effect of the world recession and two years of drought did not prevent us achieving some positive results. Our country was able to overcome the cycle of rescheduling our foreign debts once and for all, to establish the convertibility of the dirham, and to maintain reasonable balances in our public finances. We achieved important foreign currency reserves to cover six months of imports, we managed to attract important foreign investments, and made our economy diverse, allowing it to be very flexible.

Our manufactured products dominated our exports and are continually gaining prominence—32.3 percent in 1992 compared with 14.8 percent in 1982. Our country was also able to control inflation and limit it to a rate not exceeding five percent. This rate is close to what is recorded in industrial countries. It is very low compared to what is happening in developing countries. [passage omitted]

Any objective observer must reach one basic fact: Our economy—its structures and mechanisms—is able to move to another stage where a more developed economic and monetary system can be applied.

Mr. Speaker, honorable representatives, our country took necessary decisions at the right time and contrary to other countries to reform our financial situation and protect our economy from the dangers that were threatening it. Today, after we have achieved economic and monetary gains, it is our duty to protect and maintain these gains and not to fall once again into the pitfalls of imbalances. Some might think that the state could provide more of the citizens' needs by increasing expenditure. That is ...[pauses] ... because after 10 years—during which we restructured our economy and rescheduled the Moroccan debts—the question is: Now that we have reached financial equilibrium, and reached the figures to

make the Moroccan economy successful ... [pauses] As for crises—whether in foreign trade or drought—we should not and do not want as of now to adopt the measures taken in 1983. But after this structural reform and after 10 years of structural reform and [debt] rescheduling, the question now is: What are we going to do? What is the new economic policy that we are going to adopt?

Here views differ: It is a matter of whether to return to a budget deficit and inflation, or rather to ensure a growth in the economy and more openness. [passage omitted]

The farsightedness of his majesty the king was evident when he urged his government to commit itself not to allow the treasury deficit to exceed 1.5 percent of gross national product. The economic and financial policy I have mentioned is aiming, among other things, at achieving a high rate of growth without inflation being the price to pay for this. [passage omitted]

Mr. Speaker: Financial equilibriums are not an objective in themselves. The equilibriums we have achieved are not our only objective. They are a means of establishing an economic basis that will enable us to realize more growth and more jobs. Thus, one of the basic questions posed to us was: How can we create the biggest possible number of productive jobs?

After two years of drought and world recession, and at a time when unemployment has become one of the structural features of the economies of various countries, including the great industrialized countries, we realized from the start—in the light of the experiences of other countries—that the absorption of the unemployed in general, and the unemployment of graduates in particular, cannot be achieved solely by creating jobs in the public sector. Given this fact, we saw fit to proceed along several directions which, all in all, constitute an integral strategy to expand the chances of employment in our country. [passage omitted]

In the event of a normal agricultural season, our economy is expected to realize a growth rate of 7 percent in 1994, God willing, compared with 1 percent in 1993. At the level of our external finances, a fresh increase is expected in our reserves of hard currency which will be attaining [word indistinct] dollars i.e. an equivalent of imports for six months. A decrease to 2.1 percent is also expected in the deficit of the current account of the balance of payments.

Mr. Speaker, honorable representatives: What are thus the main economic, financial, and social measures contained in the draft budget of 1994, and which aim at implementing part of the statement which the prime minister submitted to your honorable house?

The draft budget of 1994, submitted to your attention, stipulates particularly the following main measures:

First: controlling ordinary expenditures. The increase of ordinary expenditures including interest charges

resulting from public debt will be confined within 12.59 percent and this will enable us to increase the surplus in the revenue budget which now represents 75 percent of the investment expenditures compared to 66 percent in 1992. It is known that covering investments through public savings is the safest way of financing because this limits the state's need for loans and will in turn lead to limitation of public debt or will give more opportunity to the economic sectors to borrow from the internal financial market to cover their financing needs.

There is also another aim in controlling the state's expenditures, particularly equipment expenditures and the various expenses. This urges the public services to manage more rationally the human, financial, and material resources at their disposal, and to use them as effectively as possible. In other words, the matter is about increasing the productivity and efficiency of the administrative system.

Second: increasing the volume of the investment budget and orientating investments toward projects with economic and social productivity. The investment budget will in the 1994 budget witness an increase estimated at 26.42 percent as it will reach over 18 billion dirhams compared to about 15 billion dirhams in 1993. [passage omitted]

I would like to mention that important investments will be achieved in generating electric power, telecommunications, land reclamation and increasing irrigated areas, building a dam every year, ensuring food security, restructuring deep-sea fishing, consolidating land and air transport and enlarging harbors and industrial areas linked to them, and other projects, all which you will be acquainted with within the framework of sectorial budgets.

Third: Continuing the policy of tax reduction. The government will continue its policy aiming at reducing taxes so as to make things easy for those liable to tax and increasing the number of taxpayers. This reduction concerns company tax, value added tax [VAT] on interest and general income tax. Tax on imports will also reviewed for economic purposes.

Specifically, company tax will be reduced from 38 to 37 percent—as you remember we reduced it from 40 to 38 percent in the 1993 budget. [passage omitted]

The VAT on interest will be reduced from 14 percent to 7 percent and, God Willing, it is possible that we will cancel it altogether in the future.

A reduction of state revenue estimated at 88 million dirhams will result from these two measures and all this amount will remain at the disposal of enterprises. [passage omitted]

The general income tax will be reduced at the higher and lower bands. The maximum rate of general income tax will be reduced from 48 to 47 percent, we reduced it from 52 to 48 percent in 1993, and a fall in state revenue estimated at 125 million dirhams will result from this

measure. The minimum general income tax allowance will be increased from 15,000 to 18,000 dirhams. As you know, it was increased last year from 12,000 to 15,000 dirhams. This will reduce state revenue by an estimated 450 million dirhams.

The reduction of general income tax will lead to the state giving up revenues estimated at 575 million dirhams. This amount will remain in the hands of individuals and will contribute to the increase in their purchasing power and to an increase in national commercial and economic activity.

Import duty, which was as you know 12.5 percent, will be reduced to 10 percent as far as equipment is concerned, and will be increased to 15 percent as far as other goods are concerned.

This review aims at encouraging Moroccan industry which imports equipment necessary for its growth and development. It is no secret that industrial growth is the best method for the development of employment. [passage omitted]

Sixth: Continuing the process of reforming and restructuring public institutions. The aim of this reform is to turn public institutions into an effective tool for production. The planned operations in this respect are relevant, in particular, to the institutions of the energy and minerals sector. A financial cover has been allocated for these operations totalling more than 458 million dirhams.

Seventh: Taking care of the social sectors; this is the highest and final objective of this policy i.e. to serve man and satisfy the needs of the society. However, social progress, as all of you know and as other countries' experience indicate, depends to a large extent on economic progress. Hence, the whole aforementioned financial and tax measures will inevitably reactivate the national economy and encourage investment and employment. It will consequently reflect positively on the social level of the people.

In addition, the government, in implementation of the program presented to you by the prime minister, has laid special attention in the draft financial bill for 1994 to the social sectors. This is reflected, in particular, in the following: 1. An increase in the level of employment in the public administration where employment will rise to 25,500 positions compared to 15,000 in 1993 in addition to the allocation of 3,130 temporary positions. 2. Raising the minimum tax-exempt income, as I mentioned earlier, from 15,000 to 18,000 dirhams, will provide a tax exemption for a monthly income higher than the minimum wage level. The single status exemption is for 1,145 dirhams monthly income. For a married person with three children a monthly income of 2,370 dirhams will be exempt. On the other hand dropping the upper margin of income tax from 48 to 47 percent will positively reflect on the incomes of a significant number of employees, wage earners and the rest of those subject to

this tax. Furthermore, the reduction of the general tax on income will contribute toward raising the purchasing power of the taxpayers.

3. Finally, according to the commitment of the government in its program submitted to you, a significant portion of the equipment expenditures will be directed to the ministries with a social character. The equipment credits for the Ministries of Public Health, Youth and Sports, Handicraft, Housing and Employment, Social Affairs, and the supreme delegation of war veterans and members of the liberation army and the affairs of the Moroccan community abroad, have increased to more than 25 percent for each of them. The credits for national revival will increase by 25 percent, which will enable the creation of 2.5 million additional working days. The equipment of the Ministry of Cultural Affairs has increased by more than 72 percent and the budget of the Ministry of Justice has increased by more than 83 percent. [passage omitted on the importance of the judiciary; importance is given to the social sector]

As for the agricultural sector, the government will continue to adopt the program aimed at irrigating one million hectares. During 1994, [the irrigation] of 8,500 hectares will be completed, 30,000 hectares will be prepared [for irrigation], and the irrigation of an additional 46,000 hectares will also begin. Equipment in 54,000 hectares will be repaired while 100,000 hectares of forest land will be outlined. Some 35,000 new hectares will be planted with trees. Agricultural products will be protected from all foreign competition. It is worth mentioning that the government has begun dealing with drought as though it were a structural matter whereby preparations to confront it at any time must be made. In that context, the national fund against natural disasters—which has one million dirhams—will compensate those farmers who have been hit [by drought].

On the other hand, because some of these programs are implemented through local partnerships and because of the encouraging results of merged programs, the government will work on drawing up a charter for rural development especially based on consultations with those benefiting from it and ensuring their effective participation to carry out the agreed projects according to their capacities. [passage omitted]

During 1994, the government is determined to implement or to start implementing a number of projects in the government's program that would create better conditions for the development of the private sector and should encourage investment, economic revival, [boost] employment and social development.

In that context, the government will work to provide the best possible conditions to implement the various texts pertaining to reforming and developing the monetary market, such as the new banking law which aims to boost banks' own capitals and to submit their financial deposits to the regulations of modern monetary systems.

It also aims to apply unified and harmonious regulations on all loan-giving institutions without discrimination.

The application of that new law is bound to create suitable conditions for proper competition that will encourage savings and allow economic operators to obtain bank loans under the best terms. Amongst those articles [which the government will implement] is the law related to restructuring the stock exchange, whose importance in obtaining savings and investments does not go unnoticed, as well as the law on establishing a council for moveable assets which will protect savings and will ascertain the veracity of information required from people who call on the public to underwrite their stocks and bonds. The government will also implement the law related to the bodies in charge of the collective investment of moveable assets. Besides that, the government will work to set down and implement texts related to rent-related loans and the system for reciprocal loan guarantees.

It will also establish pawn markets and a market for convertible currencies. The government will review laws encouraging investment to make it more suitable for the needs of developing our national economy.

The sought-after aim from all the monetary and banking reforms is to support entrepreneurship, particularly small and medium-sized ones, to provide the suitable and encouraging atmosphere for savings and investment by removing all obstacles that used to hinder the movement of capitals. This is bound to make Morocco more attractive in international monetary circles. [passage omitted] The privatization program has witnessed an important popular and economic success as the applications for buying CTM [Moroccan Transport Company] shares for example was oversubscribed three times. As an example, the number of CTM shares on offer was 377,000 and the demand was 1,540,000. [passage omitted]

In the field of youth and sport, attention will be focused on equipping some 400 simple playing grounds which will be prepared in coordination with local communities. The financial capabilities of the national fund for sports development will be especially developed so as to take care of youth activities.

In the field of employment, measures will be taken with the aim of reviewing the tasks and structures of the job centers allowing the private sector to open agencies specializing in the field of employment, in addition to the endorsement of the employment bill and the creation of social courts.

The deep-sea fishing sector will be restructured while the traditional inshore fishing will be supported. National marine resources will be protected and exports will be facilitated. The tourism sector will be continuously developed through the intensification of the vocational training process, purging the sector and raising the quality of its services.

In the field of energy, government action will be focused especially on increasing the production of electricity and on the expansion of the electrification of rural areas.

In the field of transport, a special effort will be exerted with regard to air transport, airports and road safety. An agreement will be concluded between the government and the national bureau for railways on a program that defines the responsibilities and obligations of both parties. In addition the government will open industrial areas, techno-poles [as heard] that will provide advanced technological means to receive contracts particularly around the important airports in the Kingdom.

In the field of telecommunications, the national bureau, as from the beginning of 1994, will implement an ambitious program to meet the needs in this field at the national and international levels.

In the field of public works, about 1,500 km of roads will be covered with tarmac or repaired and 60 km of roads for cars will be built every year over the next 10 years. And in addition to building a dam every year, enlarging the ports and modernizing their uses, a law on the utilization of water will be passed. [passage omitted on the government's encouragement of scientific research, the development of the northern areas; noting that in the debates ministers will give further details about the government's projects for 1994]

The considerable gains we have achieved in the financial domain, the confidence in the future of our country and our continuously growing economic abilities, as well as the large scale reforms we continue to carry out to facilitate and encourage private initiative, are likely to encourage national investments and to attract to more foreign capital to our country, whether in the form of the transfer of some industries from Europe to our country, or in the context of completely new investments. All signs indicate that this trend is being continuously confirmed. It is sufficient for me to say here that foreign investments in Morocco increased four-fold in five years—between 1988 and 1992—and their annual growth rate is increasing continuously except for a few cases. [passage omitted]

The economic and social development in a country like Morocco, which has chosen decentralization and reasonable liberalism, involves the state but also all the public institutions, local collectivities and the private sector. In 1994, the public institutions will invest almost 19 billion dirhams, and the state contributions to this are only 15 percent. [passage omitted]

To ensure further the growth of the private sector, the state seeks to provide economic and financial incentives for this sector, and to spread a climate of trust in financial and social relations by strengthening the state of law in the domain of business, simplifying administrative measures as much as possible, and making economic and social data available for all. We are aware that individual initiative alone is insufficient to guarantee the society's economic and social equilibrium. We must understand that the private sector alone cannot guarantee the equilibrium, and the state

must intervene because the state has a role in which it observes and controls the important equilibriums. The intervention of the state is necessary and governments in other countries play an important, excellent and strong role. On this basis the state continues to undertake sovereignty requirements concerning security, justice and defense of our territorial integrity for which we would give everything dear to us. We must not misunderstand liberalism. Liberalism does not mean the state is to give a full free hand to the private sector, sell everything and remain without a role to play. The state has a role to play. [passage omitted]

The intervention of the state [in the economy] must be qualitative and rational, aimed at realizing growth, investment and jobs, without acting in lieu of individuals when the latter are able to assume their role. By so doing, we build a diversified and open economy where economic operators multiply and complement one another. [passage omitted]

Every economic policy needs time to produce its effect, and we are realistically optimistic regarding the future. Morocco, as a deep-rooted country which has a national and distinguished personality—given its proximity to Europe and its considerable infrastructure, given the spirit of initiative that marks the Moroccan people, and above all thanks to the wise leadership of His Majesty King Hassan II—Morocco can realize a great economic take-off which will be its hallmark in the last years of this century. May God guide us all in the service of public interest. [passage omitted]

Sudan

Official Calls For 'Warm Relations' With U.S.

EA2212164093 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1014 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Text] Khartoum, 22 Dec (SUNA)—Mr. Hashim Uthman, the director of the European and American department [of the Foreign Ministry] has delivered a briefing on the concept and aims of forming brotherhood and friendship societies with the peoples of the world, stressing the importance the Sudanese people attach to the development of warm relations with the American people. He delivered the briefing here yesterday during a reception held in honor of the elected executive committee of the Sudanese-American Friendship Society. He referred to the tepidity which had afflicted relations between Sudan and the United States and called for earnest action towards removing the blemishes staining the relations between the two countries.

Professor Mahjubah Muhammad Salih, chairwoman of the now defunct preparatory committee of the Sudanese-American Society, called for the normalization of relations between the two countries. The elected executive committee of the Sudanese-American Friendship Society comprises Mahjubah Muhammad Salih as chairwoman and 13 other members.

Iranian Construction Jihad Ministry Delegation Visits

EA2212170093 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1018 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Text] Khartoum, 22 Dec (SUNA)—A delegation from the Construction Jihad Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran has been briefed on the aims and functions of the Martyr organization and on avenues of cooperation between it and the Construction Jihad Ministry.

This took place here yesterday when the delegation, led by Mr. Mohammad Taqi, the deputy minister of the Iranian Construction Jihad Ministry, visited the headquarters of the Martyr organization. The delegation is on a visit to Sudan at the invitation of the International Popular Friendship Council.

Al-Bashir Stresses Consolidation of Ties

LD2312093893 Tehran IRNA in English 0743 GMT 23 Dec 93

[Text] Khartoum, Dec. 23, IRNA—Sudan's President General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir here Wednesday [22 December] stressed consolidation of Tehran-Khartoum ties in all fields and strengthening of Islamic cooperation between the two Muslim countries.

He made the remark in a meeting with the visiting Iranian deputy Construction Jihad minister, Mohammad Taqi Amanpur, and underlined Sudan's determination to enforce Islamic laws in the country. The Iranian ambassador to Sudan, Majid Kamal, was also present in the meeting.

Amanpur also discussed mutual relations and Construction Jihad's activities in such fields as agriculture, road building and establishment of hospitals in Sudan with the country's Minister of Presidential Affairs Awad al-Jaz.

Meanwhile, the Iranian deputy minister in an interview said that Construction Jihad's bureau in Sudan was the most active among its offices in Tanzania, Ghana and Sierra Leone. He said he was in Sudan to make preparations for the forthcoming visit to Sudan of Construction Jihad Minister Gholamreza Foruzesh.

Amanpur and his accompanying delegation concluded their five-day visit to Sudan Wednesday night.

Joint Committee Discusses Relations With Ethiopia

EA2212163293 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1005 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 22 Dec (SUNA)—The Sudanese and Ethiopian sides participating in the proceedings of the ministerial joint committee have affirmed that relations and the policies of goodneighborliness, respect for the wishes of the two peoples, concord over regional and international issues relevant to the region will be consolidated. They went on to consider the Somali issue, saying

that the two sides had concurred that this issue should be left to the Somalis themselves to resolve without the intervention of any foreign quarter. This was transmitted to SUNA by way of a statement from Dr. Anwar al-Hadi, director of political affairs at the Foreign Ministry and rapporteur of the political committee. He said the participants had also discussed the refugee issue, voicing their readiness to facilitate the voluntary return home of the Sudanese and Ethiopian refugees.

Dr. Mustafa Sarraj, the rapporteur of the economic committee said that there had been consultations on cooperation in the fields of trade, financial matters, customs, taxation, investment, transport, communications, irrigation, geology and power. [passage omitted]

Al-Bashir Praises Relations

EA2212163593 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1011 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Text] Khartoum, 22 Dec (SUNA)—Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, the president of the Republic, has lauded the relations between Sudan and Ethiopia and wished the ministerial joint committee of the two countries currently meeting in Khartoum success in their endeavours, a result which would serve the interests of the two fraternal countries.

He said this yesterday while receiving the Ethiopian side to the joint committee led by Mr. Tamirat Layne, the Ethiopian prime minister, in the presence of the chairman and members of the Sudanese side. Those participating in the meeting discussed bilateral relations and ways of developing and consolidating them in the interests of the two fraternal peoples.

Contacts Held With Israel on Security Cooperation

NC2212143593 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 19 Dec 93 p 1

[Unattributed report]

[Text] A European country is monitoring recent contacts between members of the Sudanese security organ and members of Israel's "Mosad." Responsible sources in these countries [as published] say that the contacts are not confined to security cooperation between the two countries, Israel's mediation with the United States, or to limiting the aid to John Garang but have gone beyond all this to include cooperation in economic, agricultural, and dam-building fields.

Out of its desire not to reveal this cooperation, the Sudanese regime will resort to a third party, possibly South Africa, to implement these projects with the cooperation of Israeli companies. This explains the reasons for a South African delegation's recent visit to Sudan. The delegation included security experts and the visit was followed with great interest by the Sudanese media.

Al-Bashir Says Rebel Movement Dependent on Foreign Aid

EA2212193093 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Excerpt] During a meeting with media leaders this morning, Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, the president of the Republic, stressed that the national salvation revolution had, ever since its advent, been seeking to consolidate the prerequisites of peace in the country. His Excellency said that John Garang's movement, which today frankly declared itself in favour of secession, had been unable to declare this stance in the past.

His Excellency said the rebel movement was basically dependent on foreign support and that the foreign forces supporting the rebellion would be the same forces that would compel the rebels to sit down with the government in order to achieve peace. [passage omitted]

**Al-Qasimi Reads GCC Summit Final
Communique**

*LD2212225593 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television
Network in Arabic 1510 GMT 22 Dec 93*

[Final communique issued by the Gulf Cooperation Council, GCC, Higher Council session, read to the GCC session in Riyadh by GCC Secretary General Shaykh Fahim al-Qasimi—live]

[Text] Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, Your Majesties, Your Highnesses; it pleases me to read to your honorable conference the final communique of the Higher Council which has been adopted by your honorable conference.

In response to the graceful invitation of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Saud, King of Saudi Arabia, the GCC Higher Council held its 14th session in Riyadh 20-22 December 1993, under the chairmanship of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Saud, and in the presence of their majesties and highnesses: His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, head of state of the UAE; His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, amir of the State of Bahrain; His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id, Sultan of Oman; His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, amir of the State of Qatar; His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, amir of the state of Kuwait.

The GCC march: The Higher Council reviewed the good march of the GCC in the political, security, military, economic, social, and cultural domains in the light of the results and recommendations conveyed by the ministerial committees and the ministerial council. It has studied the ways likely to give momentum to collective action out of its faith in the common destiny and objectives, and the desire to strengthen the cooperation march to achieve the objectives fixed by the statute and embodied by the resolutions on joint action in all fields. In so doing, the council was guided by the lofty speech made by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Saud at the opening session of the 14th session of the Higher Council, and the positions and foundations contained in this speech for joint action in the coming stage.

The Higher Council stresses its full determination to speed up the march of the GCC and to give this march an impulse toward wider scope to face up to all challenges, and to be in harmony with regional and international changes, and to respond to the ambitions and expectations of the leaders of the council member states and their peoples to achieve security, stability, and prosperity.

Implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions pertaining to the aggression of the Iraqi regime: The Higher Council discussed the developments of the regional situation and the events in the Gulf region in the light of the violation by the Iraqi regime of the conditions of the cease-fire defined by Resolution No. 687, by

continuing to practise a policy of procrastination in carrying out the UN Security Council resolutions pertaining to its aggression, and to repeat its expansionist claims to the State of Kuwait, to threaten its sovereignty and independence, and to endanger regional security.

In this regard, the Council strongly condemns the Iraqi regime for its pursuance of a selective policy in implementing the relevant resolutions of international legitimacy, particularly its disrespect for and noncompliance with Security Council Resolution No. 833 which stipulated the demarcation of borders between the state of Kuwait and Iraq, for its hostile behavior against the state of Kuwait, for the provocative acts of its forces and elements on the borders between the two countries, and for its threatening to repeat the aggression.

The Higher Council stresses its absolute support to the state of Kuwait as an embodiment of the collective security principle.

The Council renews its demand for the Iraqi regime to respect the conditions of the cease-fire, for the implementation of all relevant Security Council resolutions and the provisions of Resolution No. 687, particularly those relating to respect for and the implementation of the resolution concerning the international boundaries between the two countries on the bases of the agreements concluded between the two countries and according to Security Council Resolution No. 833, to release all Kuwaiti and other countries' POWs and detainees, to pay reparations and to pledge not to carry out or support any terrorist or subversive action.

The Higher Council calls on the international community to confront the Iraqi regime's attempts to bypass international legitimacy resolutions, stressing the necessity for continuing the international pressure until it ceases its aggression and implements all its international obligations.

The Council also stresses that the respect of the State of Kuwait's sovereignty and independence, as stipulated in Article 2 of Resolution No. 687, and its international borders as approved by Security Council Resolution No. 833, represent the core of the obligations stipulated by Resolution No. 687 and that their nonimplementation constitutes a violation of the essence of that resolution.

The Council holds the Iraqi regime fully responsible for the human sufferings and tragedies of the fraternal Iraqi people as a result of its policies which represent a violation of Security Council Resolution No. 688 and its refusal to implement Security Council Resolutions No. 706 and No. 712 which deal with the human sufferings of the Iraqi people, stressing its keen concern for Iraq's unity and territorial integrity.

Relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran and the issue of the islands:

The Higher Council, after listening to a detailed explanation from His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al

Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Republic, about the existing conflict between the UAE and the Islamic Republic of Iran over the three islands, the Greater Tunb, the Minor Tunb, and Abu Musa, calls on the Islamic Republic of Iran to respond to the invitation of His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the UAE, calling for holding a direct dialogue with the Islamic Republic of Iran concerning its occupation of the islands of the UAE and stressing that the UAE is still advocating dialogue and abiding by peaceful means to end this occupation and the return of the three islands to the UAE's sovereignty in accordance with international laws and norms and the principles of good-neighborliness and mutual respect between states.

The Council welcomes the statement issued by the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran related to the dispute existing between Iran and the UAE about the three islands. It hopes that this is the sign of cancellation of all the measures adopted by Iran on Abu Musa Island and putting an end to the occupation of the two islands, the Greater Tunb and Lesser Tunb, which belong to the UAE.

It recalls in this respect the resolutions announced by the Higher Council at the end of the 13th session in Abu Dhabi, that the development of relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran is linked to the consolidation of trust and the measures it adopts which are in harmony with its commitment to the principles of neighborliness and the respect for the sovereignty and integrity of the territories of the states of the region and noninterference in internal affairs.

The Council reaffirms its full solidarity with and total support for the stance of the UAE and for all the peaceful measures and means which it sees fit for recovering its sovereignty on its three islands on the basis of the principles of international legality.

The current Arab situation: The Higher Council has followed with great interest the developments of the Middle East peace process and expresses its welcome for the signing of the agreement on Declaration of Principles between the PLO and Israel on the basis that it is a first step toward reaching a just, comprehensive, and lasting solution to the Middle East question and the Arab-Israeli conflict. This is on the basis of UN Security Council Resolutions No. 242 and No. 338, the principle of land for peace, and achieving full Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories, at the forefront of which is Holy Jerusalem, and laying down firm foundations for guaranteeing security and stability in the Middle East.

In this respect, the Council expresses its expectation that the current negotiations will achieve substantial progress in all directions. It calls on the international community to put pressure on Israel to make it put an end to its occupation of the Syrian Golan Heights and implement UN Security Council Resolution No. 425 stipulating its withdrawal from all the Lebanese territory.

The Higher Council has followed with great concern the developments of the situation in Somalia and considers

its deep regret about the continuation of deterioration of the security situation there and calls on all Somali factions to reconcile all differences, to put national interest before anything else, and to cooperate with UN efforts aimed at reestablishing peace and firmly establishing stability in Somalia.

The Council reaffirms its stance by the side of Somalia in its painful ordeal and its full eagerness for its sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity.

The situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina: The Higher Council has studied security and living conditions in the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina as a result of the (?unjust) Serbian aggression and the perpetration by regular and irregular Serbian troops of that most ugly crime against humanity, ethnic cleansing, in that stricken republic, plus the violation of UN conventions and blatant defiance of the international community.

The Council voices strong condemnation of Serbian and Croatian attempts to impose a fait-accompli and extract territorial gains which contradict international legitimacy.

Noting that the international economic sanctions imposed on the Serbs have not led to any significant results in changing their aggressive attitude and halting the ethnic cleansing operations which they practise regularly, the Council calls on the Security Council to take all necessary measures permitted in Article 42 of the 7th Chapter of the UN Charter to restore international security and peace. It also calls on the Security Council to enable the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina to practise the inalienable right of self-defense in accordance with Article 51 of the UN Charter, including the lifting of arms embargo imposed on it, tightening of sanctions, and increasing the pressure on Serbia and Montenegro.

Recording with appreciation the response expressed by the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina to reach a negotiated settlement in accordance with the plan recently put forward by the international mediators, the Council supports the just demands of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina to adapt this plan and give the republic a sea outlet to maintain the integrity and unity of its territory.

In the fields of cooperation and coordination: The Higher Council has reviewed the defense cooperation process among the member states in the light of the defense ministers' meeting at their 12th session. Due to the importance of this process in maintaining the security and achievements of the GCC member states, the Council has endorsed all the defense ministers' recommendations, first of which is the developing the Peninsula Shield Force and other various military matters so as to confirm the significance of this cooperation in consolidating the collective defense among the member states.

Regarding this issue, the Council has decided to set up a higher committee to follow up the implementation of the collective defense and military cooperation resolutions, the presidency of which is assumed on a yearly rotation

basis among the GCC defense ministers, and which includes chiefs-of-staff and the chairman of the military committee at the secretariat, with the presidency rotation to start with the United Arab Emirate.

The Council has also endorsed the interior ministers' recommendations at their meeting 22-23 November, 1993 on various security cooperation issues, including those related to a comprehensive security agreement. The ministers of interior have entrusted their under-secretaries to hold a meeting to finalize the drafting of this agreement.

Yemen

Al-Iryani Urges Decentralization in South, East

PM2312095593 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 21 Dec 93 p 1

[Hammud Munsir report: "In a Message to al-Bid, a Northern Socialist Expresses Support for the Application of Decentralization in South Yemen"]

[Text] Sanaa—Malik al-Iryani, first secretary of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] in the capital Sanaa, has urged the party to begin implementation of decentralization in the southern and eastern governorates as a model experiment in these governorates that would have a positive effect on the northern governorates.

That came in a message sent by the northern socialist leader to 'Ali Salim al-Bid, YSP secretary general and Yemeni vice president, and Dr. Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, head of the Central Committee's Secretariat and Political Bureau member. In his message, he said that such an experiment would reflect on the country's social and economic development and would "foil any attempt to revive totalitarian rule in the northern governorates."

Al-Iryani warned against "precipitation of social backwardness in the homeland." In his message, a copy of which was obtained by AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, he also said: "Permit me to express my opinion frankly. We are engaged in a battle for national democratic liberation from backwardness and its symbols which are determined to perpetuate backwardness in the absence of the state and modern institutions including laws that regulate all aspects of the Yemeni people's lives." Al-Iryani added: "Our party has the ability to introduce a model for national democratic decentralized rule through the introduction of decentralized government in the southern and eastern governorates, planning the implementation of comprehensive, independent, and balanced development, conducting a study with a view to making the ports on the Arabian Sea coast the gateway that would ensure the arrival of goods for the public, and using the economic revenues, including oil royalties, for development and public services and also for development of decentralized government. [no end quotes as published]

Paper Lauds UN Resolution on Sovereignty*JN2312113093 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0800 GMT 23 Dec 93*

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Dec (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has noted that Iraq's steadfastness and firmness have set a bright example for world peoples who are struggling against imperialism. Iraq's steadfastness and firmness have turned into a catalyst, boosting the endeavors of world states that seek to safeguard their security and territorial integrity and rid themselves of the claws of imperialism and Zionism, the paper argues.

In an article published today, the paper, which speaks for the Arab Socialist Ba'ath Party, adds: The United States and its allies have sought to turn Iraq into a test field for their violations so they may use it as an example to terrorize the world and scare people from exercising their legitimate rights to sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity, and independent decisionmaking.

The paper goes on to say: The firmness of the Iraqi people, the courage of their leadership, and their firm determination to rid themselves of the gruesome hegemony forced by the thievish U.S. Administration have all strengthened the resolve of the Somali Arab people, the fraternal Libyans, and the friendly strugglers in the world.

AL-THAWRAH points out the fact that the UN General Assembly has [UNGA] upheld the peoples' national sovereignty, their right to make independent choices, and their right to determine their own election methods in accordance with their own constitution has thwarted the scheming imperialist states and deemed illegal their interference in the domestic affairs of various nations under the guise of upholding human rights and promoting American style "democracy."

The paper adds that the wishes of world peoples, which are the epitome of compassion and humanitarianism and whose freedom and independent decisionmaking have been confiscated by U.S. imperialism, have once again triumphed over the colonialist whims of the United States and its "democratic" allies, inflicting on them an abysmal defeat at the hands of the world body.

The paper contends that this confiscation by the United States was meant to achieve hostile political and economic purposes, taking advantage of the colonialist new world order.

The paper says that the failure of the United States and the colonialist West in this single incident categorically confirms the inevitable victory of the struggling South. This triumph has vindicated the UN Charter and contributed to efforts to spare mankind the catastrophes of imperialism. Likewise, the paper maintains, this triumph has endorsed the right of the peoples living under colonial rule and occupation to struggle to regain their freedom and independence.

The paper reaffirms that this victory at the United Nations has come to cap the struggle of patient Iraq and

other struggling nations, as well. It is an invitation for stepping up, by all means, the struggle against the global terrorism practiced by Zionists and imperialists.

AL-JUMHURIYAH Hails Resolution*JN2212111693 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0830 GMT 22 Dec 93*

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Dec (INA)—The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH has hailed the resolution adopted by the UN General Assembly yesterday, which stipulates the need to respect the sovereignty and independence of states and not to interfere in their domestic affairs even under the UN banner.

In a commentary today, the paper says that the United States stood violently against this resolution and mobilized 50 states behind it. However, the paper adds, the people's will for freedom was stronger than the torture and terrorism exercised by U.S. colonialism.

The paper says it feels sorry for those who imagined that the resistance and spirit for freedom are dead and that this is the era of despair and surrender.

It notes that the voice of freedom has been raised from within the den of evil, crime, and coercion in New York to announce its rejection of the U.S. policy and crimes, adherence to freedom and independence, and rejection of any encroachment on the national sovereignty of states in the name of democracy and human rights.

The paper says that the aforementioned resolution is of special importance because it is issued at a time when the United States has besieged peoples with the weapons of power, economic pressure, sabotage, the planting of sedition, and ignition of wars and at a time when superpowers that deterred the United States no longer exist.

The paper adds: The UN General Assembly resolution is the first unanimous world rejection and collective international condemnation of the U.S. policy. It is also a confirmation of the "Mother of Battles" policy which inaugurated the era of heroism and steadfastness and rejection of the logic of power following America's imposition of its hegemony over the scene of events.

The paper notes that America's hostility to the resolution confirms its hostility to people's right to self-determination, basic human rights, and real democratic order. It also confirms U.S. adherence to the dictatorial and fascist policy which, through its hostility to humanity, has surpassed all other forms of fascism.

Protest Lodged With UN Over U-2 Flights*JN2112121693 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1030 GMT 21 Dec 93*

[Text] New York, 21 Dec (INA)—Iraq has lodged a protest with the United Nations about renewed violations of Iraq's airspace by the American U-2 spy plane under the guise of conducting air surveillance for the UN Special Commission.

A letter to this effect was sent by Iraq's Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf to UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali. It pointed out that the plane, taking off from its Saudi base, violated Iraq's airspace on 16 and 26 November and on 9 and 16 December.

The letter reiterated Iraq's position that the plane is being used for purposes other than those specified by the UN Security Council.

It called on the United Nations to take an immediate second look at the arbitrary deployment of the plane to violate Iraq's airspace contrary to the UN Charter's principles calling for cultivating equality among and sovereignty for all member nations.

It is to be recalled that Butrus-Ghali told the NEW YORK TIMES last month he did not want a James Bond plane spying for the United Nations.

Spokesman Denies Report on Repatriated Kuwaitis

JN2212183793 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1755 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Dec (INA)—An official spokesman stated in Baghdad today that AFP has claimed in a dispatch from Cairo that the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] has issued a statement that it repatriated 14 Kuwaiti citizens to their country after they had been held in Iraq.

The spokesman said the Foreign Ministry summoned the ICRC representative in Baghdad and asked about what was mentioned in the statement. The representative denied the AFP allegation, and presented a copy of the aforementioned statement, which explains that the 14 Kuwaitis were among Kuwaitis residing in Iraq. They have been waiting for three years for Kuwaiti authorities' approval to allow them to return to Kuwait. They constitute the 23d group of Kuwaiti residents who have been delivered by the ICRC to Kuwaiti authorities, who refused to accept them before scrutinizing their identities and their personal attitudes.

UK Police Search House of 'Oppositionist'

PM2112101293 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 18 Dec 93 p 4

[Adnan Husayn report: "In Response to Request From Baghdad Government's Lawyer, British Police Search Senior Iraqi Oppositionist's House"]

[Excerpts] London—The house of a prominent Iraqi oppositionist in London was searched last Wednesday [15 December] by a legal office taking care of the Iraqi Government's legal affairs in Britain, accompanied by the British police.

A group of people from the "Landau Scanlan" group entered the house of Dr. Hisham al-Shawi, former Iraqi higher education minister and ambassador to Canada,

who enjoys the right of political asylum in Britain, and searched it thoroughly to look for a sum of money which the Iraqi Government says Dr. al-Shawi unlawfully seized when he was ambassador. [passage omitted]

The former Iraqi official announced in a press conference, held with his colleague al-Juburi in the British capital last August, that he took possession of the sums of 273,530 Canadian dollars and 155,950.85 U.S. dollars which were in his care as ambassador and decided to deposit them in an international bank with the intention of transferring them to the Iraqi people after Saddam Husayn's regime has been removed and an Iraqi Government has been elected by the people.

Dr. al-Shawi, who is currently out of Britain, told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT over the telephone that he deposited the money in a British bank in October. [passage omitted]

Al-Shawi added that the competent British authorities "have knowledge of all these details and I have given them copies of the documents."

On the incident of the search of his house, al-Shawi said: "I have profound confidence in and respect for British justice, courts, and competent authorities. However, I have been extremely alarmed by the incident, because, as my family has told me, the manner in which the search was conducted was humiliating, and the search took place in my absence. All I am concerned about is the security and dignity of my family, who I believe enjoy the same protection granted to me in my political capacity."

Barzani on PKK, Ties With Turkey, Iraq

JN2212103293 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 19 Dec 93 p 6

[Interview with Mas'ud Barzani, leader of the Democratic Party of Kurdistan, DPK, by Zuhayr Qusaybati, in Salah-al-Din, northern Iraq; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Qusaybati] The Kurdish administration has been set up in order to end repression. How do you justify your party members' shooting at demonstrators in al-Sulaymaniyah?

[Barzani] The reports that DPK members fired at demonstrators are untrue, and this accusation against the DPK is baseless. We asked the ministers of peshmergas and interior to investigate the matter and take measures against those who are proven to have fired at demonstrators. [passage omitted]

[Qusaybati] The problem of the Zhillah camp in northern Iraq—in which members of the Kurdish Workers Party [PKK] are stationed—is still unresolved between the Kurdistan Front and Turkey, which shells Kurdish villages and strikes at PKK positions. Are there armed elements in the camp?

[Barzani] Yes, the al-Biqa' camp has been moved to Zhillah. We were against the transfer of this camp to Zhillah, but we remained silent for reasons I cannot discuss now. Armed men are being trained in the Zhillah camp thereby violating the agreement reached with the Kurdish Government which states that this party will not exercise any military activity or training within our territory.

[Qusaybati] How many armed men are there inside the camp?

[Barzani] There is no fixed number. There are approximately 1,000 armed men.

[Qusaybati] In his interview with AL-HAYAH, Talabani said he is less firm than you in this subject.

[Barzani] Sometimes, brother Jalal is more enthusiastic than me, and sometimes he is less enthusiastic. My stand, however, is invariable: I am against the PKK's method, acts, and practices. I consider this party as the most serious threat to the future of the Kurdish nation.

[Qusaybati] Do you support the Turkish description of the PKK as terrorist?

[Barzani] Why do you call it the Turkish, not international, description? This description of terrorism is not given without evidence. The PKK's practices justify the use of this description.

[Qusaybati] Given the fact that this party is stationed in northern Iraq, how can this issue be tackled?

[Barzani] The PKK must have no presence in our areas. What this party is doing inside Turkey is none of our business. However, we reject any presence for this party in our areas, and we will use force, if needed, to prevent its members from entering these areas. We will stand firmly in the face of the PKK's acts. We would like to ask: Why does Iran support it and oppose the Kurdish administration? We support the aspirations and rights of our Kurdish brothers in Turkey, Syria, and Iran. As we do not interfere in their internal affairs, they must not interfere in our affairs. The PKK members consider themselves an alternative to the Kurdish administration in northern Iraq and interfere in everything. We will stop these practices and we consider this a sacred duty. We cannot accept the Stalin and Pol Pot styles in Iraq's Kurdistan.

[Qusaybati] You have received a Turkish delegation headed by a personal envoy of Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller. What happened during your meeting with this delegation?

[Barzani] Mrs. Ciller sent me a letter in reply to a letter I earlier sent her, protesting the Turkish aerial bombardment of villages in Parrazan and Brawri [placename as published]. Ciller regretted the incident, and affirmed that her government is willing to compensate affected persons and adopt measures to ensure that there will be no repeat of such a regrettable incident.

[Qusaybati] Have contacts been held with you to resume the dialogue between Kurds and Baghdad?

[Barzani] No such contacts have been held with us. If such contacts were to be held, they would be made public, because we are opposed to any secret ties or contacts with Baghdad.

[Qusaybati] Would you accept a resumption of the dialogue?

[Barzani] This issue has to be decided by the Kurdish Parliament, for I do not have the right to make a decision in this regard.

[Qusaybati] Do you believe that there is a way out of the current impasse in Iraq?

[Barzani] The alternative is to set up a democratic regime in the country. All efforts must be directed toward that end.

[Qusaybati] Do you still believe that it is possible to topple the regime?

[Barzani] This is no easy task. I do not find it so as some do.

[Qusaybati] Do you think that the regime can be toppled by force?

[Barzani] I do not wish to see the head of the Iraqi regime replaced by a general or a dictator. If the alternative were not to reflect a tilt toward democracy, I do not wish for any change in the regime, either by force or by any other means.

[Qusaybati] In other words, you are not for change in the current military regime?

[Barzani] I am not for replacing one dictator with another. This regime has been suffering from international isolation, from a crisis. Moreover, the UN Security Council has passed a host of resolutions against this regime. If a military junta were to replace this regime, the restrictions imposed on it might be lifted. Then, the new regime might use its military machine to eliminate the Kurdish people and kill all hopes for democracy in Iraq as a whole.

[Qusaybati] Talabani says that toppling the regime is a job that must be accomplished by Iraqis alone.

[Barzani] That is true, if only possible.

[Qusaybati] What would happen if Western nations halt the aerial protection they are providing to Iraqi Kurds?

[Barzani] Then, a catastrophe no less dangerous than the one that plagued the Kurdish people in the spring of 1991 would take place. Of course, we would fight. Nonetheless, the majority of the Kurdish people would either be made homeless or victims of severe oppression, of a genocide. Then, combatants would seek refuge in mountains. The situation would be tragic.

[Qusaybati] Do you then expect the maintenance of Western protection?

[Barzani] We do not wish for it to remain forever. We want it to remain until a democratic regime is installed in the country.

[Qusaybati] Some observers believe that there will be no resumption of the dialogue between Kurds and Baghdad as long as this protection is there.

[Barzani] This is not true. When we started the negotiations with Baghdad, the coalition troops were in the region. Brother Jalal [Talabani] first left for Baghdad, heading the Kurdish delegation. Then, I headed the delegation. We held several rounds of negotiations with the Baghdad government.

[Qusaybati] President Saddam Husayn is still in power and international sanctions are still being imposed on Iraq. Do you believe there are ways to ease the suffering of the Iraqis?

[Barzani] The best remedy is the implementation of Security Council Resolution 688. The Seventh Chapter of the UN Charter should be applied here so that the implementation of the resolution will be imposed and will be binding.

[Qusaybati] Do you mean dispatching international observers?

[Barzani] Yes, UN observers should supervise the distribution of food, oil selling, human rights, and law enforcement. They should also supervise fair democratic elections in Iraq.

[Qusaybati] Do you support a new Western intervention?

[Barzani] We should first understand the objectives of this intervention.

[Qusaybati] We heard that planes dropped leaflets, in the name of the Unified Iraqi National Congress, over southern Iraq calling for toppling the regime.

[Barzani] I read this in the press. There are many ways to distribute leaflets in the south. I cannot confirm whether these leaflets were dropped from air or arrived in the south by land. We must understand the objectives of the intervention first, and then we will declare our stand on it. We will certainly support it if it will aim at helping the Iraqi people set up a democratic system. If it will have other objectives we will not support it.

[Qusaybati] What is your assessment of American and Western aid to the Iraqi opposition, particularly to the Kurdish administration?

[Barzani] I have no idea about American and Western aid to the opposition. The assistance to the Kurdish administration comes via UN agencies or non-governmental humanitarian organizations. We appreciate this assistance and thank the states and organizations which offer it, despite the fact that it is only relief aid. Kurdistan needs assistance to rehabilitate the infrastructure and set up productive projects so that the Kurdish people will become a producing people and will not remain a consumer society and so the people will build an economic base and become self-reliant.

[Qusaybati] The Iraqi opposition parties and organizations believe there is still a possibility to unify their ranks.

[Barzani] Many attempts were made in this direction. I believe that the Unified Iraqi National Congress is the best formula so far, despite its shortcomings. The best thing is to develop this congress; we do not agree on an alternative. We must exert our efforts to develop and improve this congress. It is unreasonable to demolish something every day in order to build something else. Regrettably, the state of fragmentation has helped the regime.

[Qusaybati] Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, chairman of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, has not moved from Iran to Kurdistan. How do you explain this?

[Barzani] You better address this question to him. I do not understand the reason. He should be in his country, not in another country. In any case, we have good relations and these relations go back to the 60's.

[Qusaybati] What is the most important problem which you believe the Kurdish administration must tackle?

[Barzani] Corruption, law violations, and the economic situation.

PUK's Talabani Leaves for Syria, Europe

NC2212183993 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1700 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Text] Brother Jalal Talabani, secretary general of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), left the Region of Kurdistan for Syria yesterday, Tuesday. According to informed sources, brother Talabani will stay in Damascus for several days and will meet with a number of

Syrian officials. He will then travel on official visits to a number of European countries.

Opposition Attacks Government Checkpoint

NC2112155493 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 21 Dec 93

[Text] The heroes of the Islamic resistance have attacked a checkpoint near al-Shafi'iyah on the road between al-Najaf and al-Diwaniyah. The operation was carried out following complaints from a large number of citizens that the personnel manning the checkpoint harass and insult them.

The attack led to the death of the four people manning the checkpoint, including a warrant officer, a native of al-Ramadi, who was employed by the Iraqi intelligence service.

Artillery, Helicopters Shell Kurdish Areas

NC2212180593 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1700 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Text] The regime's forces shelled the areas of [word indistinct] al-Jabari from their long-range artillery last night, Tuesday. The regime's helicopters also raided the same area. The shelling lasted three hours but there were no human casualties.

Opposition Parties React to Baytuniya Attack

TA2212192593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Text] The Likud, Tzomet, NRP [National Religious Party], and Moledet factions in the Knesset have submitted no-confidence motions to the government following the Baytuniya incident. The Likud called on the prime minister to recall Ministers Peres and Sarid, who are negotiating with the PLO in Paris, and formulate a responsible defense policy. Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu is convening opposition leaders to discuss how to fight the government's defense policy. He blamed Rabin for the acts of murder and the uncertainty in Israel resulting from the return of the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] deportees and release of wanted men.

[Reporting that all opposition factions submitted no-confidence motions against the government, Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew at 1800 GMT on 22 December adds: "The NRP and Tzomet make a connection between the release of the Hamas prisoners and the murder, while Moledet blames this on government indifference. The Likud faction called on the government to return Peres and Sarid home. The no-confidence motions will be discussed next Monday [27 December]."]

Settlers To Patrol Roads, Disrupt Orient House

TA2212201293 Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Text] The secretariat of the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip a short while ago adopted the decision to operate patrols along the main traffic axes of Judea and Samaria. Our correspondent Rina Matzliah reports the secretariat also decided to disrupt PLO headquarters activity at Jerusalem's Orient House.

Bomb Explodes in Gaza Police Headquarters Yard

TA2312072993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 23 Dec 93

[Text] A homemade bomb exploded in the yard of the Gaza police headquarters this morning. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that a Border Police bomb disposal expert who was summoned to the site found and safely defused several more bombs.

Danish Prime Minister Holds News Conference

TA2312055293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 23 Dec 93

[Text] Denmark's Prime Minister Poul Rasmussen has ended his official visit to Israel. At a news conference in Jerusalem, he voiced support for the current peace moves and European efforts to press for an end to the Arab trade boycott.

[Begin Rasmussen recording, broadcast in progress] ...ministers of the European Union [EU] and the continued efforts by the EU to end the Arab boycott is for a confirmation on the involvement of the EU in its peace process.

With regard to my meeting with the representatives of the PLO, I want to emphasize the following: I took note of their concerns, encouraged them to reach an agreement within the framework of the DOP [Declaration of Principles], and made it clear that our continued assistance in this respect on a national basis and within the EU is very much depending on the creation of the necessary administration structures within the PLO. Denmark wants to see its assistance as a concrete—and I underline: concrete—effort to peace.

Everyone I talked to, I expressed the will of Denmark as a part of Europe to continue the assistance to the peace efforts. The whole region should take into account and not underestimate the will and the desire, politically and economically, to further assist the peace process. [end recording]

Talks Held With Iraq on New Import Regulations*JN2312103093 Amman AKHBAR AL-USBU' in Arabic 23 Dec 93 p 1*

[Text] Amman—The Jordanian Government has emphasized that Iraq has the right to take all the measures it believes will reinvigorate its economy. The reopening of Umm Qasr Port on the Arabian Gulf has angered quarters hostile to Iraq and the Arab nation because it reaffirms Iraq's insistence on ending the blockade imposed on it.

A responsible Jordanian source told AKHBAR AL-USBU' that the Iraqi Government has every right to restrict its imports via a specific port, or to give certain facilities to those who import through Iraqi ports, thus encouraging major shipping companies to end the blockade imposed on Iraq by having them directly proceed to Iraqi ports to unload permitted goods.

The source added that the Iraqi measures have achieved their objectives as three vessels carrying sugar and rice have docked at the small Iraqi port of Umm Qasr in one month. This made the Iraqi Government take the necessary measures to expand the port so that it may receive bigger vessels, overcoming the problem of alluvial mud which limits the depth of the port.

The source said that Jordanian-Iraqi talks began yesterday to discuss the impact the Iraqi decision will have on the national economy. Khalid al-Samarra'i, senior Iraqi transport under secretary, arrived in Amman yesterday at the head of an official delegation for talks in this respect before leaving for Cairo to attend the Arab transport ministers meeting on 29 December.

The source described the results of the Jordanian-Iraqi talks as positive and that Iraq emphasized its eagerness to continue importing through the Jordanian Port of al-'Aqabah, particularly for vessels weighing more than 25,000 tonnes, as Umm Qasr Port cannot accommodate bigger vessels.

Official on Iraq's Decision on Imports*JN2312091293 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 23 Dec 93 p 7*

[Report by Salam al-Shawwa]

[Excerpt] Falah al-Qudah, director general of the Free Zones Corporation, has denied that the Iraqi Government's recent decision to encourage merchants to import their goods to Iraq through the Iraqi port of Umm Qasr will have any negative effect on Iraqi imports via the free zones.

In an exclusive statement to AL-ASWAQ before leaving the country to attend the meetings of the Jordanian-Syrian Industrial Free Zones Company, al-Qudah said that before the Gulf crisis, Iraq's imports constituted some 40 percent of the transit goods arriving in the free zones. He said he expects this figure to rise as soon as the UN economic embargo on fraternal Iraq is lifted.

According to al-Qudah, Umm Qasr port cannot handle the needs of Iraq, which will have to import large quantities of goods in the years ahead to make up for the acute shortages in the Iraqi market resulting from the three-year-old embargo.

He added that Umm Qasr will not be able to handle more than 30 percent of Iraqi imports when the embargo is lifted. He stressed at the same time the important role that the Jordanian free zones play in securing transit goods for Iraq.

It is worth recalling here that the Iraqi imports through the Jordanian free zones constituted some 40 percent of the items entering free zones. Imports to the local market are also estimated at 40 percent. The other 20 percent used to go to the Gulf markets before the Gulf crisis.

According to the Free Zones Corporation director general, Iraq imported 5,000 tonnes of tea in November and December through the free zones at a cost of \$4 million. Tea is a basic commodity that can be imported without UN approval. [passage omitted]

Iraq's Execution of Citizen Confirmed*PM2212172193 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 21 Dec 93 p2*

[Unattributed report: "Iraq Executes a Jordanian for 'Dealing' With Kuwait"]

[Text] Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Informed sources in Amman yesterday confirmed the report recently published by AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT about the execution of Jordanian national 'Imad Na'im Hammad on 3 November in Baghdad on the charge of dealing with Kuwait.

The sources said that some Jordanian official and popular bodies tried to persuade the Iraqi regime to release that national, who was of Palestinian origin and carried a Jordanian passport, but failed.

The Jordanian information media have noticeably imposed a blackout on the incident and made no reference to it. The family of the 39-year-old man published a eulogy for him in one of the local papers saying that he died in Iraq but did not give details of his execution. Hammad had studied at al-Basrah University and had lived in Baghdad during the last three years.

Relations With PLO 'Tense' Over Economic Issues*JN2312093593 Amman THE STAR in English 23 Dec 93 p 1*

['Special to THE STAR' by Ahmad Shakir]

[Text] Jordan-PLO relations have gone through yet another tense stage when PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat failed to sign a draft economic agreement that would have put future economic relations between Jordan and

the Palestinian entity into focus. The deadline for signing that agreement passed on the 20th of this month.

A number of leading Palestinian figures have expressed their regret that the Palestinian president was putting the issue of closer Jordan-Palestinian coordination on the back burner.

Head of the Cultural Dept. at the PLO, Mr. 'Abdallah Hurani, has said that he had intervened personally with Mr. 'Arafat urging him to take immediate action to preserve high-level coordination with Jordan. "I assured 'Arafat that Palestinian and Jordanian future is one and that there will have to be understanding and cooperation at ideal levels so that we will not fall prey to Israel," Mr. Hurani told THE STAR.

Officially relations between Jordan and the PLO are cordial. But underneath all the diplomatic language, observers agree that the relations have taken a downward trend since the Oslo talks came out into the open last summer. Still, Jordanian officials have been careful to go on record to praise bilateral relations while sounding optimistic notes about future cooperation.

But behind closed doors the two parties have been exchanging accusations. Each says the other party has ignored his needs. Mr. 'Arafat is said to be critical of Jordan's "misuse" of its special relations with the PLO in order to make "special" gains, while Jordan accuses the PLO chairman of opening up too much with the Israelis especially in economic areas at the expense of Jordan.

Conflict centers around two areas: economy and security. On the economic front the PLO has expressed reservations about Jordan's intention to reopen Jordanian banks in the West Bank. Deputy Prime Minister Dr. Ma'n Abu Nuwar was forced to go on record saying that the issue of reopening Jordanian banks in the West Bank is still under consideration and that it is not related to the Jordanian-Palestinian economic agreement. He added that the matter will be presented to the cabinet soon.

A number of Jordanian banks, that had applied to reopen branches in the West Bank, have hinted that they would prefer to wait until Jordan and the PLO have signed their joint agreement. The Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ), which had negotiated a supervision agreement with the Israelis within the framework of the peace talks, will not give the go ahead until Israel and Jordan endorse the agreement.

The PLO had sent a message to Jordan urging the Government to postpone its plans to re-open the banks until the second Oslo talks between the PLO and Israel have been concluded. For the time being, at least, Jordan appears to have responded favorably to the Palestinian

request. Palestinian envoy in Amman Mr. al-Tayyib 'Abd al-Rahim said that he was assured by Crown Prince Hasan of Jordan's keenness to coordinate with the Palestinian leadership in all levels.

But informed sources told THE STAR that Jordan has officially demanded an explanation from the PLO on the reasons why Mr. 'Arafat had failed to sign the joint agreement with Jordan although the draft agreement was already negotiated and initialed many months ago.

The PLO on the other hand, accuses Jordan of attempting to tie up the Palestinian economy to Jordan during the transitional period. It also accuses Jordan of working to make the Jordanian dinar the official legal tender in the territories and that re-opening the banks proves this. It also accuses Jordan of trying to impose its own economic system on the territories which, the PLO believes, will undercut the territories' ability to attract foreign investments.

Jordan is said to have responded by making it clear to the PLO that it has no plans to control the Palestinian economy in any way. One Jordanian official wondered if the self-governing authority will be allowed to issue its own currency or if it accepts the Israeli shekel as the main currency.

The second area of disagreement is over security, namely bridges over the River Jordan. While that issue is the main bone of contention between Israel and the PLO, the latter believes Jordan should publicly declare its support for the Palestinian position by announcing that from its end it will enforce strict rules on who will be allowed to cross into the West Bank.

One Jordanian parliamentarian described the Palestinian request as "provocative" by asking Jordan to act as a policeman for the Israelis in return for the PLO's right to run the bridges.

Jordan says it is not a party to the PLO-Israeli negotiations in Oslo or elsewhere and while Jordan supports Palestinian demands, it cannot involve itself in the talks.

Mr. 'Arafat is expected to visit Amman next week to sign the joint economic agreement with Jordan. One Jordanian source said that the PLO and Mr. 'Arafat know that they cannot afford to work without Jordan's support. But it is not clear if the PLO will take the additional step of reviving the work of joint committees in order to create real coordination with Jordan.

The source added that Jordan will continue to support the PLO, but that the Palestinian organization knows that people in the occupied territories will refuse to get rid of their Jordanian passports or replace Jordanian dinars with the Israeli shekel.

Buwayz on Peace Talks, Christopher Message

NC2212161193 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 Dec 93

[News conference held by Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz following his meeting with U.S. Ambassador Mark Hambley with unidentified correspondents in Beirut on 22 December—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Buwayz] My visit to Britain was in response to an invitation from Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd. It included talks on various economic, cultural, and political issues of interest to both countries. This might produce some immediate results, like reopening the British Council and greater British interest in Lebanon's reconstruction. Additionally Britain's long acquaintance with the Middle East enables it to understand issues well and play a role in the peace process. It is clear that Britain is committed to Lebanon's sovereignty over all its territories, a full Israeli withdrawal, and the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 425. We agreed with British officials to take several steps that will undoubtedly bolster bilateral ties and boost Lebanon's position in the peace process.

[Correspondent] Mr. Minister, there have been conflicting positions and statements with regard to the fact that the recent UN General Assembly recommendation ignored any mention of Resolution 425. Some say there is no danger to Lebanon; some say there is much danger. What is the Foreign Ministry's view on this?

[Buwayz] I want to clarify this issue. It is a somewhat delicate issue, but it must be clarified. To begin with, Resolution 425 was issued by the Security Council, the highest UN body. It cannot be abolished except by another and contrary Security Council resolution. Resolution 425 cannot be abolished except by the same process by which it was adopted.

Furthermore, when we were asked to attend the Madrid peace conference, the invitation was issued on the basis of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. Negotiations followed and we received letters of assurance from the sponsors of the conference dealing with the implementation of Resolution 425 and Lebanon's right to urge its implementation. The UN General Assembly's action was carried out in the context of its regular practice of endorsing certain recommendations at the conclusion of its session. I repeat: They are recommendations, not resolutions. They usually deal with several international topical issues. The recent ones were based on the concept of boosting the Madrid peace process. Hence the General Assembly adopted the preamble to the Madrid peace conference, which originally did not mention Resolution 425. We certainly do not approve of this step, which we view as insufficient; but it absolutely does not mean that Resolution 425 has been abolished. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Mr. Minister, during your meeting with the British foreign secretary, he asked that Lebanon join the multilateral talks. Is the Lebanese position on these talks still the same?

[Buwayz] Certainly several countries, notably the United States and the Europeans, would like Lebanon to join the multilateral talks. I still believe that Lebanon's participation in these talks hinges on progress in the bilateral talks, on how well established the idea of peace becomes, and the form of this peace. I believe that a frank declaration of principles and a clear commitment to the peace process might open the door to the multilateral talks. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Have you received new U.S. assurances in connection with Resolution 425?

[Buwayz] The new U.S. ambassador gave me a written message today from Secretary Christopher. It deals with the general political situation in the region, the peace negotiations, and the Lebanese situation also. The message asserts the firm U.S. commitment to the withdrawal of foreign armies from Lebanon and its sovereignty and independence. The message underlines the U.S. resolve not to allow peace to be established at the expense of Lebanon, but rather to restore to it all its territories. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Mr. Minister, are the new U.S. assurances sufficient for Lebanon to attend the next round of peace talks?

[Correspondent] Did the message include an invitation to attend the next round of talks?

[Buwayz] The message of course referred to the next round of negotiations and the U.S. view of them. As for the actual resumption of the talks, discussions are going on about this very subject. When more facts become clear, it might help us to adopt the appropriate stance.

[Correspondent] Has Ambassador Shammass [head of the Lebanese delegation] received an invitation to attend next month's meeting in Washington with ...

[Buwayz, interrupting] First of all, the negotiating delegations have been invited to hold some discussions in Washington prior to resuming the negotiations. Of course, the head of the Lebanese delegation will leave for Washington at the beginning of next month to be briefed on the new U.S. proposals on the negotiations. The negotiations themselves will be conducted later, after Ambassador Shammass returns to Beirut and after we are informed of all pertinent facts. [passage omitted]

Chief Editor Urges Confederation With Syria

NC2212121393 Beirut AL-SHIIRA' in Arabic 20 Dec 93 pp 4-5

[Article by Chief Editor Hasan Sabrah: "Why Can't Confederation Between Lebanon and Syria Be Established?"]

[Excerpts] We want to address Muslims and Christians who fear the relationship with Syria and who only see its security aspect. We want to address those who base their misgivings on the consequences of this security relationship, as demonstrated by the conduct of this or that officer, the attitude of this or that Syrian soldier at a

roadblock, or the storming by a security agency of a house or a bureau in which there is a wanted person, a political opponent, a suspect, a defendant, or a victim. We want to address the subconscious of whoever is afraid of being swallowed by Syria, because it is a strong country with a strong system and a solid leadership and political program. This is the case while we in Lebanon still aspire to build a state and our system is... but [sentence as published]. We have no program and our leadership is divided. [passage omitted]

It is in Lebanon's interest to find a new formula for its relations with Syria. This formula may be given the constitutional name of a confederation, which means that both Lebanon and Syria would maintain their sovereignty and their independent executive, legislative, judicial, military, and security institutions as part of a confederation. This means that there would be two presidents, two prime ministers, two parliament speakers, two armies, two judicial systems, and two systems for personal affairs and currency. From this sovereignty and degree of independence we could set forth to build a union state. Under this proposal, we could gain the benefits of a union and remove the evils of separation.

We would go public with the relationship of a confederation without feeling embarrassed. Some believe this relationship already exists but without publicity. So why don't we clear this ambiguity and establish a natural status between a single people in two countries as much as the political, domestic, Arab, and international circumstances and the sectarian makeup, national feelings, pan-Arab ambitions, and the interests of the two states permit?

There is no harm here in discussing the economic interests of both countries. We believe that Lebanon would benefit more from this idea. Syria has 15 million consumers, that is, four times as many as those in Lebanon. The Lebanese market, which is saturated with everything, needs a market thirsty for that which it has in abundance. Lebanon, with much experience in the freemarket economy, could find broader room for creativity in Syria. The agricultural area in Syria is encouraging for those who have the technique, sense of initiative, and the machinery that came earlier to Lebanon. Lebanon has much to offer. It could serve as Syria's gate to the West and to many of the Arab Gulf states. The Lebanese banks have experience that is not available to

the Syrian Government banks, which suffer from choking red tape. Lebanon has the most advanced banking system in the world and the confidentiality of this system enables it to accommodate Syrian banking work and even most of the revenue and income of Syria's traders and industrialists.

We believe the Syrians may have some concerns about a confederation with Lebanon. Some Lebanese may be apprehensive about security relations with Syria, but the Syrian regime must ponder the complex security situation in Lebanon, which may harm its stability in Syria. If Syria joins a confederation with Lebanon it will be unable to cancel its natural open-door attitude. With an army and a security force in Lebanon for over 17 years, Syria has not attempted to change this nature, which is the secret of Lebanon's survival. Nobody should think that Syria could cancel out Lebanon. Syria has never tried to prevent Lebanon from being a forum or a gateway. [passage omitted]

The circumstances Lebanon is about to experience against its will will have the effect of an earthquake in terms of the fateful changes they will create. An earthquake is beyond anybody's control, except God's, whereas change occurs as a result of calculated interaction. The earthquake coming to the region will have enormous effects on Lebanon; Syria can control these effects. Lebanon is weak and still convalescing from 17 years of a destructive civil war that has hit the people, the land, the values, the behavior, the economy, the infrastructure, the formula of coexistence, and the cohesion of its people. It has fragmented the sects and factions, destroyed parties, and transformed ideas and ideologies. This natural weakness, coupled with the fearful penetration resulting from the reconciliation with Israel, will weaken Lebanon further. [passage omitted]

Armenian Parliamentary Delegation Departs

NC2212133793 *Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic* 1230 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Excerpts] Armenian Speaker Babken Ararktsyan and his delegation today met Deputy Chamber of Deputies Speaker Elie al-Firzi and afterward members of the Foreign Relations Committee led by chairman Dr. Amin al-Hafiz. They discussed the current situation and bilateral relations. [passage omitted]

The Armenian delegation then left for Damascus.

Resolution to Peace Impasse U.S. 'Responsibility'
*JN2312085493 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio
 Network in Arabic 0543 GMT 23 Dec 93*

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Impasse And The Key To A Solution," the newspaper AL-BATH says: The Zionist propaganda machine, and the media organizations affiliated with it, have begun to raise storms ahead of the Geneva summit between Presidents Hafez al-Assad and Bill Clinton in a bid to disturb this summit and influence its outcome. This show that the Israeli rulers and their supporters are determined to scuttle any efforts aimed at putting the peace process back on track.

The paper adds: The Israeli rulers will have to pass a test in early January. For, the heads of the Syrian and Lebanese delegations to the Arab-Israeli peace talks will leave for Washington at that time for talks with U.S. Administration officials ahead of the resumption of the peace talks. It goes without saying that the Syrian and Lebanese sides are not obstructing the peace process. Thus far, it has been the position of the Israeli rulers, who want the peace talks to serve as a smokescreen for secret negotiations to kill the very substance of the peace process, that has precluded progress in the peace talks. They are bent on using this tactic because they have managed to obtain concessions from the parties that accepted such negotiations.

AL-BATH goes on to say: It is impossible to achieve a true and viable peaceful settlement in the region unless Israel subscribes to the terms of reference agreed upon for the peace process by the parties concerned. Any attempt to achieve a lame peace that fails to uphold international legitimacy and the peoples' natural rights is doomed to failure.

Concluding, AL-BATH says: The Arabs, headed by Syria, have committed themselves to the requirements of just and comprehensive peace. They have cooperated with all parties that have sought to achieve peace, particularly the United States, the sponsor of the peace

process. They are fully willing to continue this cooperation, which has been based on reasonable and satisfactory grounds. It is the responsibility of the U.S. Administration to find a way out of the impasse Israel has created to hamper the peace process. The United States holds the key to the solution, which must result in Israel accepting international legitimacy and its resolutions.

Under the headline "Israeli Practices Are The Antithesis of Peace," the newspaper TISHRIN says: Undoubtedly, settlements are no longer just an obstacle to peace. As a matter of fact, they are also an indication that Israel continues to pursue positions that can in no way promote peace. Any party that is concerned about the peace process, and want to remove the impediments to peace, cannot pursue positions that jeopardize this very process, or deliberately seek to make it reach a dead end.

TISHRIN adds: It has become clear that settlement activities are the mainstay of Israeli occupation. This is because they have always resulted in the confiscation of land, the displacement of Arabs, the imposition of Israeli military control, the use of terrorist practices, the perpetration of massacres, the uprooting of Arabs, the settling of Jewish immigrants, and the absorption of these immigrants on Palestinian territory at the expense of the lawful Arab landowners.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: International legitimacy does not allow changes in the demographic or geographic features of the occupied territories. Moreover, nobody can accept the Israeli policy of faits accomplis. The Golan in Syrian Arab territory that must be returned to its owners. The same goes for the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, Jerusalem, and southern Lebanon, which must be returned to their Palestinian and Lebanese owners. Settlements are illegal. Hence, they must be completely dismantled to achieve peace.

Armenian Parliamentary Delegation Arrives

*JN221210094 Damascus Syrian Arab Television
 Network in Arabic 1810 GMT 22 Dec 93*

[Excerpts] People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd al-Qadir Qadharah today received the Armenian parliamentary delegation led by Babken Arakchyan. [passage omitted]

The Armenian parliamentary delegation, led by Babken Arakchyan, arrived in Damascus today on a five-day visit to Syria. [passage omitted]

Afghanistan

Libya To Help Water, Electricity Ministry

LD2112193893 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 21 Dec 93

[Text] Libya is to help the Ministry of Water and Electricity in various fields. This issue was raised in the meeting of the ambassador of Libya with the esteemed Seyyed Mohammed Ayub, minister of water and electricity. The two sides spoke about issues of water and electricity [words indistinct] and the formation of an office of Libya's water and electricity company in Afghanistan.

Heavy Fighting Among Hekmatyar's Forces in Lowgar

LD2112202893 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 21 Dec 93

[Text] Heavy fighting has taken place recently between two commanders of Golboddin's militia due to differences in the distribution of goods looted in Tagab district. A BAKHTAR military correspondent, quoting a responsible security source, reports that clashes took place in Kolangar, Lowgar Province, when differences arose on the distribution of looted goods from Tagab District between Commander Mohammad Zaher of Lashkar-e Esar and Abubakr and Sayid, who are associated with Mawlawi Sharafoddin Akhondzada, another commander of Golboddin's militia. As a result of the clashes five people of the two sides were seriously injured, and a number of innocent people were either martyred or were injured. Six residences were damaged.

Hekmatyar Forces Mount Mortar Attack on Kabul

LD2212185993 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Text] Three of our compatriots were martyred and 18 other were injured as a result of a mortar attack by Hekmatyar militia forces.

A Kabul garrison command spokesman told a BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY correspondent that the mortar, which was fired from the south at around 1500, landing in the Kabul bazaar near the Kanishka Hotel, killed or injured a number of our compatriots. The injured were moved to hospitals and are undergoing treatment. In addition to the loss of life, there was some material damage.

Golboddin Hekmatyar's militia yesterday evening began an offensive against Islamic army posts in the south.

A Kabul garrison command source told the BAKHTAR military correspondent that, like previous provocations, the aggressors fired heavy weapons at the trenches of the

Islamic army. The offensive was repelled, thanks to the brave resistance put up by the units stationed in the region.

According to another report, Hekmatyar's militia this afternoon fired heavy weapons at the Qabelbuy residential areas, resulting in severe damage. These attacks were launched after Golboddin's party issued a statement last evening that included a reference to attacking Kabul's residential areas by Golboddin's militia.

Uzbeks Battle Hekmatyar, Mas'ud

94P50067A London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 18 Dec 93 p 8

[Report by Ahmad Muwaffaq Zaydan]

[Text] Peshawar—Violent clashes broke out day before yesterday, Thursday, between forces loyal to Afghan Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar and the Uzbek militias led by General 'Abdol Rashid Dostam in southwest Kabul. Afghan sources told AL-HAYAH that the clashes began after the militias boldly kidnapped two women from a region controlled by the Hezb-e Eslami, led by Hekmatyar.

Hekmatyar threatened to shell the militia areas if they did not cease these practices and put these threats into practice when his forces fired 50 shells, 12 of which caused casualties in the ranks.

Meanwhile, violent battles broke out between forces loyal to former Defense Minister Ahmad Shah Mas'ud and the militias in the Microrayon-3 District near the airport. Witnesses coming from Kabul told AL-HAYAH the clashes killed five of Mas'ud's forces and seven of the Uzbek militiamen, wounding 20 others on both sides.

At the same time, the violent battles in the strategic Tagab Valley northeast of the capital continued. Aircraft loyal to Mas'ud raided Hekmatyar areas at the Naghlu Dam near Sarowbi, and sources close to Hekmatyar told AL-HAYAH that the bombing caused some material losses. Hezb-e Eslami sources claimed that they were advancing on Mas'ud's forces in the Shamshir Hills in the Tagab Valley.

Reliable Afghan sources also stated that Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani yesterday left for Mazar-e Sharif in northern Afghanistan. He will leave there tomorrow, Sunday, for Tajikistan on a three-day official visit. Rabbani is the first foreign head of state to visit Tajikistan since its founding in 1991. The talks will deal with the continuing unrest along the borders of the two countries. Dr. 'Abdol Rahman, Mas'ud's deputy, returned two days ago from a visit to Tajikistan in preparation for Rabbani's visit.

India

Spokesman Promises 'Realistic' Approach to Pakistan Talks

BK2212162093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Text] India has said that it is committed to the foreign secretary-level talks with Pakistan next month. An External Affairs Ministry spokesman said in New Delhi today that our approach to the talks will be realistic and pragmatic. In reply to a question, he expressed concern over some statements in Islamabad on the usefulness of the talks. The implications of these statements are a matter of concern to us, the spokesman added.

The foreign secretary, Mr. J.N. Dixit, is scheduled to hold talks with his Pakistani counterpart in Islamabad in the first week of January.

Air Chief Says Country Developing Antimissile System

BK2312112493 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 17 Dec 93 p 6

[Text] Bangalore—India has embarked on a project for the development of anti-missile missiles system in the wake of reports that Pakistan was acquiring such missiles, Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshall S.K. Kaul said on Thursday [16 December].

Kaul told reporters at the Avia India '93 international air show at the Yelahanka Indian Air Force (IAF) base that the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), the nodal agency for the integrated guided missiles programme (IGMP), had already begun working on such a missile.

An anti-missile system detects the long range missile fired by the enemy and ensures its destruction in mid-air by firing another missile.

Kaul said, the indigenous missile "Prithvi" would first be acquired by the Army followed by the IAF, on completion of test firing. However, the anti-missile programme would depend on the availability of finances in the light of the budgetary cut. "We will have to do some juggling with the available resources."

Referring to the United States' proposal to repeal the Pressler Amendment (which had embargoed supply of arms to Pakistan) the Air Chief Marshall noted "the threat to the nation will be viewed in its totality and not only in the light of the proposed repeal. We will conduct our own assessment and equip ourselves accordingly, whenever there is a need to augment our capability."

The IAF had drawn up a perspective plan covering the strategies to be adopted to counter threats to the nation over a 15 year period. Implementation of such a plan would, however, depend on the quantum of funds available with the Government, he added.

IAF would fully back the indigenous airborne early warning (AEW) project. "Such a system is very expensive and complicated, and not many countries have the technological expertise. The IAF will support any indigenous venture."

The indigenous AEW is being developed by the Centre for Airborne Systems (CABS) in Bangalore. The AEW has been successfully integrated on Avro HS 748 aircraft and test flown.

A. P. J Abdul Kalam, Scientific Advisor to the Defence Ministry, said the country was ready to sell Akash integrated ground to air missile systems abroad once the domestic commitments were met.

GATT Seen as 'Coercive Instrument' of U.S.

BK2212121593 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 16 Dec 93 p 8

[Editorial: "Unipolar GATT"]

[Text] After a prolonged circus, the United States and Europe have agreed on GATT, sealing the prospect of freezing international trade arrangements along the lines of the Dunkel draft. Europe has given in on subsidies to Airbus Industrie; the US has relented on Hollywood's penetration of Europe. Adding spice to the horse-trading in issues that are not strictly germane to world trade (the loss-making Concorde and Last Tango in Paris), highly industrialised Japan has lifted the ban on imports of rice. Where trade-offs were difficult, the first world disputants decided to leave issues out of GATT, as in the case of cross-border trade in shipping and banking and financial services. On the substantive issue of denying accommodation to developing countries wanting to achieve self-sufficiency in agriculture and to develop industries, the rich industrialised countries have been bound by consensus all along. Late starters in industrialisation are to be held on a tight leash through discriminatory patents and forced to import instead of building on their manufacturing capabilities. The new GATT agreement is poles apart from the 1948 GATT agreement it will now replace.

It is pointless to look for chinks in the negotiated arrangements hammered out by the industrialised countries. Neither Europe nor America wants to phase out industries based on stable technologies in favour of the poor countries struggling to withdraw surplus labour from agriculture into industry. The rich countries cling on to basic metal production, even though these industries incur substantial losses; this is true of a wide variety of metal-using industries, especially those requiring skilled labour, as also textiles. The patent regime sought to be brought under GATT makes sure that developing countries are barred from spawning their own process technologies. If perchance any leeway is left in the new GATT for initiative in the poor countries, the IMF will make sure that the latter, most of which are, like India, under its programmes of structural adjustment, do not

seize it. The IMF strategy requires the third world to prefer imports to domestic manufacture.

The new GATT is a triumph for the United States. America made the developing countries break ranks. It forced Japan (computers, telecommunications, financial services) to acquiesce. It was not difficult thereafter to get Europe to fall in line. Asserting its dominance in the unipolar world, the US has now told India to forget about advancing access to the developed country markets (by front-loading MFA [Multi-Fiber Arrangement]) for its textiles and garment exports; the US has asked India to open up its markets to textile imports or face a cut in the US quota. GATT has become a coercive instrument for the promotion of the American interest.

Parliament Passes Human Rights Protection Bill

BK2212160693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Text] Parliament has passed the Protection of Human Rights Bill 1993, which provides for setting up a National Human Rights Commission. The Rajya Sabha gave its unanimous approval to the bill today, which has already been passed by the Lok Sabha last Saturday [December 18]. The bill seeks to replace an ordinance promulgated in September. Replying to the debate on the bill, the home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, assured the members that the recommendations of the Human Rights Commission will be implemented in letter and spirit. He said that the government is interested in giving a firm foundation to the commission and the working of the commission can be discussed in Parliament in future if there is a need for giving more powers to it.

Iran

Foreign Ministry Issues Statement on Bosnia

LD2212220493 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran's Foreign Ministry on Wednesday [22 December] issued a resolution welcoming the naming of 27 December as the day of solidarity with the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina by the Islamic countries.

The statement mentions that 150,000 people have been either killed or missing, another 1 million have become homeless and refugees, and the malnutrition of over 300,000 innocent children are only parts of the sufferings that this nation has endured toward achieving its independence and freedom.

The Foreign Ministry statement stressed the active participation of the Islamic Republic of Iran to mark the day as gloriously as possible and announces: Any political solution should consider the will of the legal government of that country pertaining to having access to the Adriatic Sea; and regarding the continued aggression and

genocide of the Bosnian Muslims, the only possible way is to lift the arms embargo against the government of Bosnia-Herzegovina and allow Muslims to defend their legitimate rights on the basis of the clearly-specified UN Charter.

Finally, the statement mentions that in its foreign policy, the Islamic Republic of Iran will support any plan or measure that considers the legitimate rights of the Muslims.

Habibi Ends Visit to Turkey, Reports to Cabinet

Confers With Turkish Prime Minister

NC2212194193 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Turkish 1630 GMT 21 Dec 93

[Text] Vice President Hasan Habibi has conferred with Prime Minister Tansu Ciller on bilateral relations between Turkey and Iran, regional problems, world developments, and other matters. They also exchanged views on political and economic developments and matters related to security and transportation.

Stressing that she welcomed Hasan Habibi's visit to Turkey, Tansu Ciller pointed to the common interests of the two countries and said that she hoped that relations between the two sides will improve further in the future. Ciller noted that trade and economic cooperation between Turkey and Iran will serve the two countries' interests and said that Turkey wishes to buy natural gas and oil from Iran. She also said that Turkey is interested in the project involving laying a natural gas pipeline from Iran to Europe through Turkey.

Tansu Ciller recalled the crisis in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the occupation of Azerbaijan's territory by Armenia, and the problems in Afghanistan and several republics in Central Asia. She said that Turkey and Iran can cooperate to help the people in Bosnia-Herzegovina and the other countries.

Hasan Habibi expressed thanks for Turkey's hospitality and pointed to the historic and cultural ties between the two countries. Describing Turkey and Iran as the cradle of civilization, Habibi recalled the long border between the two countries and the important bearing their membership in the ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization] has on the improvement of their relations. He said that the main ECO members, particularly Turkey and Iran, must increase their cooperation to meet the needs of the other members in the effort they make to consolidate their independence.

Hasan Habibi also noted the importance of the resources of Turkey and Iran for their cooperation in the industrial and technological fields and said that the two countries can cooperate to promote their industry and improve their technology. He also said that the joint committees and the ministries of the two countries should make a greater effort to help Turkey and Iran achieve those goals.

Briefs Cabinet on Outcome of Talks

LD2212185093 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1730 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Text] The cabinet convened a meeting this afternoon chaired by the first Vice President Hasan Habibi, who has just returned from a visit to Turkey at the head of a high-ranking delegation. In this meeting, the vice president informed the cabinet about the outcome of his talks and the agreements reached with the Turkish officials.

The meeting then made decisions on how to follow up the agreements reached with the Turkish officials. The cabinet, furthermore, stressed the importance of further consolidation of ties between the two Muslim countries of Iran and Turkey.

Commentary Views Results of Visit

LD2212210293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Based on the results of the talks held during the meetings of Hasan Habibi, Iran's first vice president, with Turkish officials over the past few days, Tehran and Ankara have reached new agreements on political and economic cooperation at bilateral and regional levels.

The subjects agreed to in the talks of Habibi and his accompanying team with the Turkish officials included the purchase of Iranian gas by Turkey, construction of a gas pipeline from Iran to Turkey, and also the expansion of security cooperation in fighting terrorism.

During Dr. Habibi's 3-day visit to Ankara, which concluded today, Wednesday [22 December], he was accompanied by Iran's ministers of heavy industries and road and transportation. For this reason, talks were also held on other matters of mutual interest, such as air transportation, railroads, participation of regional states in aircraft manufacturing, and in particular on executing the railroad project and expansion of the communication road that will link Central Asia to Turkey and Europe via Iran. The two sides also reached agreements in these spheres.

Ties between Iran and Turkey in their capacity as two neighbors, having numerous and deep-rooted common traits in cultural and historical spheres, enjoy strong backing. With this situation, cooperation within the Economic Cooperation Organization, ECO, adds to the importance of bilateral relations; and more significantly, at present, the ECO covers a vast region from Pakistan, Iran, and Turkey to the Central Asian republics and Azerbaijan, with a total population of over 300,000,000 people.

At the same time, by considering the responsible role played by the ECO's founding members, namely Iran, Pakistan, and Turkey, there are great expectations for boosting regional cooperation between these states, and

these should be paid due attention. Moreover, Iran and Turkey are now placed in a situation where they are in need of making further agreements to safeguard their common frontiers. In view of the need to attend to this matter, the two countries have already reached an agreement on fighting terrorism and providing security to their frontiers. In regional dimension too, so far a number of joint meetings have been held among Iran, Turkey and Syria, in order to examine the situation in north Iraq. In general, all these meetings, as well as bilateral agreements between Iran and Turkey, depict the importance which is attached by the two countries to the establishment of general stability and security in the region.

At any rate, as also stressed during Dr. Habibi's talks with the Turkish officials over the past few days, Tehran and Ankara possess potential capacity at a high level for cooperation in all political, economic, and cultural spheres. At present, once favorable conditions have been provided for such cooperation on the basis of the spirit of understanding governing bilateral ties, it is expected that Iran and Turkey will be in a position to present a better record on bilateral and regional cooperation in the near future.

Moroccan Minister Filali Continues Visit**Seeks To Promote Economic Ties**

LD2212174393 Tehran IRNA in English 1437 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 22, IRNA—The visiting Moroccan minister of foreign affairs [title as received], Abdellatif Filali, and Iran's minister of finance and economic affairs, Morteza Mohammadkhan, here Wednesday [22 December] called for promotion of bilateral economic and trade cooperation.

Mohammadkhan said that Iran can meet Morocco's technological, raw material and foodstuff requirements and noted that there was no limitation on trade and economic cooperation between the two countries.

He added that expansion of bilateral economic ties would have a great impact on political relations.

Filali, who arrived here Tuesday on a two-day visit, said bilateral talks should continue in order to settle financial problems and his country's debts to Iran.

Departs After 'Constructive' Talks

LD2312114193 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Dec 93

[Text] After a three-day visit and talks with our country's authorities, the Moroccan minister of state for foreign affairs, left Tehran this morning. He was formally seen off by Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

Before his departure the Moroccan foreign minister expressed optimism about the future of relations between the two countries. He described his talks with the Iranian authorities as very constructive. He added: Ways of expansion of political and economic cooperation and issues relating to the world of Islam were reviewed at the talks. He called for unity among Islamic countries to solve the problems and difficulties of the people of Bosnia and Somalia.

In an interview with our correspondent on the Moroccan foreign minister's visit, Foreign Minister Velayati said: The visit by His Excellency Dr. Abdellatif Filali, the honorable foreign minister of Morocco, to the Islamic Republic of Iran was the first official visit by a Moroccan foreign minister since the Islamic revolution. This was, as a matter of fact, the highest level political visit between the two countries.

Velayati continued: During his stay in Tehran our talks focused on mutual ties in various fields and regional and global cooperation. It was agreed that a joint committee of the two countries will be set up in the near future which will, in fact, be a framework for economic and commercial ties between the two countries. We think that the committee will be established by early next year [beginning 21 March 1994]. Bilateral scientific and university-level ties are among other fields of cooperation envisaged between Morocco and Iran.

Mr. Velayati, referring to the very strong grounds for Islamic thinking among the people of Morocco, said that the expansion of cultural cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Iran and that country would be an important step in the advancement of cultural cooperation in the world of Islam. He added: In the past few months Iran and Morocco have cooperated closely in bringing various Islamic sects closer together.

Commentary Assesses GCC Communique, Oil Production

NC2312102793 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 23 Dec 93*

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentaries Group]

[Text] The 14th summit of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] concluded yesterday after issuing a final communique in which the six GCC members again expressed support for Kuwait and called for continuing international pressure on Iraq to change its aggressive behavior toward Kuwait.

The GCC emphasized its old stances on the need for a Middle East solution implementing UN Security Council resolutions and solving differences between Iran and the United Arab Emirates [UAE] peacefully and on the basis of international law.

New in the final communique was the GCC's support for 'Arafat's compromise with the Zionist regime, which was signed a few months ago. Also, the south Persian Gulf littoral shaykhdoms have supported efforts to prevent the drop in oil prices and expressed their readiness to reduce their oil production on condition that other oil-producing countries inside and outside OPEC act similarly within the framework of a specific plan.

Political observers believe the GCC's final communique simply repeated old stances and foreign policy principles and that the only novelty is the south Persian Gulf littoral shaykhdoms' stance on oil. The six GCC members produce 20 percent of the world's oil and own about 40 percent of the internationally known oil resources; if they are serious about reducing oil production, oil prices in the world market will change and will approach their true level.

The GCC members have had no uniform stance on reducing oil production inside OPEC and until recently some of them were accused of producing more than the ceiling set by OPEC. The GCC's proposal to reduce oil production shows that the drop in these countries' oil incomes has, for the first time, placed economic problems at the top of the list of the GCC's priorities. With the shock following the drop in oil prices in the eighties and the oil war three years ago and after spending most of their foreign exchange reserves, these countries, mostly consumer societies, need more oil income to avoid an economic crisis.

Daily Denounces Bomb Attack in Beirut

LD2312084193 *Tehran IRNA in English 0307 GMT 23 Dec 93*

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 22, IRNA—The English daily 'KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL' on Wednesday [22 December] denounced the bomb blast at the Phalangist Party headquarter in Beirut and said suspicious hands do not want ethnic and religious peace and economic security in Lebanon.

"Words cannot describe the dastardliness and the cruelty of the act. One has to put himself in the shoes of those whose loved ones were killed or maimed by the bombing to grasp the extent and depth of the crime," said paper.

Although the Christian Phalange Party was "responsible for some of Lebanon's cruelest acts of crime during that country's decade and a half years old civil war," said the daily, the latest act of terrorism was "unwarranted".

A huge bomb explosion devastated the headquarters of the Phalangist Party in the Lebanese capital on Monday, killing two innocent people and injuring several others.

"Why? Why not put the blind evil of hate behind?" asked KAYHAN.

The daily cautioned that "before they begin thinking of quenching their sense of revenge by killing innocent

people and destroying their life-earned properties, the Phalangists should look into their own political setup to make sure the bomb was not an inside job by the ultra-inept who would like to see a resurgence of religious and factional enmity in Lebanon.

Minister, Moscow Prayer Leader Discuss Cooperation

LD2212132093 Tehran IRNA in English 1237 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 22, IRNA—The visiting Friday prayer leader of Moscow, Rawil Ainuddin discussed grounds for Iran-Russia economic and cultural cooperation in a meeting with Minister of Commerce Yahya ol-Eshaq here Tuesday [21 December]. Ainuddin, who arrived here last Friday, expressed hope that Tehran-Moscow relations will be expanded in future adding this will be to the advantage of Muslims of both countries.

Ol-Eshaq said that there are many grounds for bilateral cooperation. He added that in light of the prevailing conditions Iran-Russia trade should be in the form of barter. Ol-Eshaq said that Iran could provide Russia with foodstuff, clothing and shoes and added some Iranian companies were ready to export goods to the Central Asian republic.

Minister Assures Czech Envoy of Debt Repayments

LD2212145293 Tehran IRNA in English 1335 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 22, IRNA—Mines and Metals Ministry exported 1.350 million tons of steel in the past nine months, mines and metals minister, Mohammad Hoseyn Mahluji, said here Tuesday [21 December].

Mahluji, who made the remark in a meeting with Czech ambassador to Tehran, Jiri Osvald, added that till few years ago Iran was importing two to three million tons of steel annually.

He added that factories affiliated to the ministry were operating only with 50 percent of their nominal capacity at the start of the first five-year development plan (1989-94). However, now they are operating at 90 percent of their nominal capacity.

Mahluji said that Iran's foreign partners need not worry about Iran's repayment of debts and added that the propaganda of enemies of Iran over the issue is meant to pressure Iran and has political aims.

Osvald lauded Iran's recent industrial progress and added that his country considered Iran as its best trade-industrial partner in the Middle East.

Agreement With France on Mining Exploration Signed

LD2212233593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Text] An agreement was signed on 22 December between the contractor in charge of the satellite exploration of the Ministry of Mines and Metals and the head of the geological institute of France to use the latest scientific methods to improve mining exploration in the country.

On the basis of the agreement, satellite data is used for mining exploration. The Kohkiluyeh va Boyer-Ahmad province is the first province where satellite data is used for mining exploration.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Visits Mazandaran Province

LD2212115593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Excerpts] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani arrived in Sari today on a five-day visit to the Province of Mazandaran. He was given a warm reception by the people.

In an interview with a reporter from the Sari Central News Unit, the president said that during his visit to Mazandaran he would see the people and the clerics, and explore the resources and needs of the province. He hoped to visit other towns in the province during his next trips. [passage omitted] Later, the president arrived at the Mottaqi Stadium in Sari to meet tens of thousands of Sari residents who greeted him with slogans. [passage omitted]

Thanking the people for their feelings, the president said: The scenes that I now witness are beyond my own imagination. The faithful people of Mazandaran drowned me in their kindness as I was passing through the streets. Words cannot describe my yearning for serving you. The history of Mazandaran is so glorious that anyone who is interested in Iranian history has to read the glorious pages of history in Mazandaran. Mazandaran is an impregnable fort, the center of learning and faith and the home of great personalities of science and faith.

In economic terms, Mazandaran is self-sufficient and partially provides for the needs of other regions. Of course, the resources of Mazandaran and the Caspian Sea coast have not been utilized in line with the advances made in science and industry. Therefore, in the government's second development plan we have given priority to that province.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani said the government's infrastructural projects for Mazandaran included the construction of a modern highway linking the province to Tehran. There was also a project on expanding the shipping fleet

of the province to enlarge its capability to exchange tens of millions of tons of goods with the Central Asian republics.

On the problem of the erosion of the country's coastline in the north, the president said: The most modern methods for the purpose available in the world will be studied to find the best of them for safeguarding the southern coast of the Caspian Sea. Once these projects are implemented the coastline will have port facilities and provide jobs for large numbers of youths.

He said that Mazandaran was the center of the country's trade with the Central Asian republics, so he called on active youth and private sector investors of the province to take an active part in the development of the province. [passage omitted]

Comments on Education, Economy

NC2312092093 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 23 Dec 93*

[Text] Last night President Hashemi-Rafsanjani attended a gathering of academicians, professors, university students, and employees of Mazandaran Province universities and stated that one of the priorities of the second [five-year] economic development plan is to further elevate the country's higher education standards. The chairman of the Supreme Cultural Revolution Council called it a necessity, adding: If society, in particular the youth of the country, are armed with science, faith, and a correct Islamic culture, it will be an insurance for this country.

The president stressed the need for plans to confront the cultural onslaught and to strengthen the revolutionary and Islamic spirit of the young generation and thanked the academicians and professors for their efforts to preserve and strengthen the Islamic and revolutionary culture of the province's youth.

Pointing out that dealing with infrastructural issues was granted priority in the first plan, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani stated that scientific and educational issues are significant for the country and that this is why efforts are being made to prevent economic problems from causing a decline in the standards of higher education and education and training in general. The president added: Infrastructural activities continued to expand in the first plan and today we can confidently say that in view of the activities that have been achieved, the country no longer depends on foreign exchange income and the reduction in oil prices will not be disconcerting for the country.

The chairman of the Supreme Cultural Revolution Council pointed to the need to overcome the shortage of classrooms and added: By next month 25,000 new classrooms will be handed over to the Ministry of Education to cater for 750,000 new students. The president also referred to the increase in the number of students during

the first plan and stated: In the second plan, basic attention will be paid to postgraduate and doctorate degrees.

The chairman of the Supreme Cultural Revolution Council described the extensive presence of women on the country's scientific and cultural scenes as extremely satisfactory and stressed the need to continue the policy of increasing women's presence in society's affairs.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani referred to the construction activities of Shahid Raja'i Dam in Mazandaran Province and stated: With its capacity to store 190 million cubic meters of water, this dam can help to increase the region's output of 100,000 tonnes of strategic products. The president pointed out: In the Second Plan, a government objective will be to strive more to make the country self-sufficient in agriculture.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani also attended the Mazandaran Province administrative council session last night. He thanked the people for their extensive presence in defending the revolution's values and fruits and stated: A highway linking Mazandaran Province with Tehran and coastal development are among the important plans to develop the province. God willing, these plans will be implemented.

He added: Contacts with the newly independent countries of Central Asia are extremely important. The people there are interested in cooperating with us, although Western countries are spreading propaganda against our system in these countries. The president added: As well as equipping the existing ports in Mazandaran Province, new ports will be built to facilitate contacts with the Central Asian countries.

Choice of New 'Source of Emulation' Discussed

PM2312105393 *London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 21 Dec 93 p 4*

[Report by Amir Tahiri: "Mounting Pressure on the Tehran Government to Prevent Its Intervention in the Choice of a Source of Emulation"]

[Text] Tehran, London—There is increasing pressure on the Iranian Government to stop interfering in the question of the choice of a new "source of emulation" and to withdraw its candidate for that post. The government, led by 'Ali Khamene'i, the revolution's supreme guide, has been trying to seize the opportunity provided by the death of Musawi Golpayegani, the late source of emulation, to replace him with one of its allies.

In recent days many prominent figures from all walks of life have written to Khamene'i urging him to prevent the government from using its influence in the choice of this figure. One of the most important of these letters was signed by 76 religious figures who supervise religious institutes in more than 12 Iranian towns including Tehran, Qom, and Mashhad. Leagues of traders in the bazaars of Tehran, Tabriz, Esfahan, and Rasht have

issued statements rejecting "attempts" by anyone to impose such a figure whatever the motives because that would "promote disunity in these difficult times."

According to al-Hajj Nasir al-Tuhami, spokesman for Golpayegani's followers abroad, most of the unions and organizations linked to the late source of emulation have pledged loyalty to Mohammad Rohani in Qom or to Mohammad 'Ali Hoseyn Sestani in al-Najaf.

Al-Tuhami said that the "source of emulation" was and still is the "people's last refuge against government injustice" and if the government attached the post to it then the people might seek refuge "in heretic ideologies." He also said that "if the Shiite faith becomes a government tool then many would perhaps wonder what is the use of having a source of emulation." The government's interference in the selection of the "source of emulation" was also criticized by Mehdi Bazarkan, who was the first prime minister under Khomeyni.

Bazarkan said in an interview that those loyal to the faith would never accept the "source of emulation" becoming "just another government appointment." He added that "the government's policy on this matter appears to be like a forced marriage which makes neither the bride nor the groom happy."

The government supports the nomination of Mohammad Araki for the post. So far he has stayed clear of the altercations and allegations about nomination. He is 90 years old and his health is not good. The religious institute where he used to lecture has been closed for about a year and he personally has not appeared in public for a month.

Supporters of Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri, the most prominent candidate for the post, say that Araki probably does not know that the government is using his name to prevent the emergence of an independent figure as "the source of emulation."

The government's efforts to persuade shiites abroad to support Araki have produced no significant results. Even the Iraqi Shiite parties based in Tehran and enjoying the Iranian Government's support have not backed Araki's nomination.

Khamene'i Appoints New Head of Kayhan Foundation

LD2212211893 Tehran IRNA in English 1830 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 22, IRNA—Leader of the Islamic revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, today appointed Hoseyn Shariatmadari as superintendent of the Kayhan Foundation which brings out several dailies and magazines.

Shariatmadari succeeds Seyyed Mohammad Asghari who has resigned his post.

In his decree the leader expressed hope that he would manage the editorial affairs of the publishing corporation in a manner consistent with the print media policies that have their roots in the ideology of the Islamic revolution.

Ayatollah Khamene'i also felt confident that the corporation will not tend to publish anything that might be interpreted as indifference towards the Islamic and revolutionary aspirations as is the case with some of the print media in Iran.

He said that Kayhan has thus far been beyond many of the falls of certain other print media in Iran, and hoped that under the management of the its new superintendent Kayhan would further improve its credibility among its audience.

The media in Islamic Iran shoulder a great responsibility in confronting the cultural onslaught of the West, he added.

The foundation prints the Persian daily KAYHAN, the English daily "KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL", the Arabic daily "KAYHAN AL-ARABI", a weekly for Iranians residing abroad "KAYHAN HAVA'T", and also publishes a number of other cultural and sports periodicals and magazines, including a monthly news letter in Urdu and Turkish.

Draft Bill on Pornographic Audio-Visuals Detailed

LD2212145393 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Text] You will now hear the details of today's Majles draft bill on punishing those who engage in unauthorized audio-visual activities.

[Unidentified correspondent] On the basis of this draft bill, those in charge of engaging in the large-scale production, reprinting, and general distribution of audio-visual pornographic material will, as a first offense, be imprisoned from one to three years and their equipment and related accessories will be confiscated. They will also be fined 1 million rials in cash. If they repeat the offense, they will be imprisoned for two to five years, their equipment will be confiscated, and they will be fined 2 million rials in cash. In any case, if they are recognized as the corrupt on earth, they will be condemned to the punishment that this carries.

In this draft bill, producers, directors, camerapersons, and the main actors have been introduced as the chief elements involved in the production of audio-visual works. The draft bill states: The other elements involved in the production, reprinting, and distribution of unauthorized works will be punished by receiving up to 74 lashes, or will pay a fine of between 1 and 50 million rials. Also, more than 10 video tape copies is defined as wide-scale, and those who engage in reprinting and distributing less than 10 copies will be condemned to fines of 100,000-1 million rials in cash, or 30 to 40 lashes.

On the basis of the said draft bill, those engaged in the procurement, reprinting, and distributors of video tapes, show diskettes [preceding two words in English], and pornographic shows will as a first offense be condemned to between three months and one year's imprisonment or to a fine of 2-10 million rials in cash. As a second offense, they will be condemned to between one and three years' imprisonment, or a fine of 5-30 million rials in cash. If they repeat their offense, they will be imprisoned for a period of between one and 10 years or a fine in cash of 10-50 million rials. All their equipment will be confiscated.

The draft bill states: Decadent audio-visual material are those that contain obscene scenes and images which promote subjects that are contrary to religious law and Islamic ethics. The use of minors for keeping, showing, supplying, selling and reproducing unauthorized video tapes, according to this law, will carry the maximum punishments set down for the convicted.

On the basis of this draft bill, the owners of pornographic and decadent videos and diskettes will have these confiscated from them and will be fined between 500,000 and 5 million rials in cash.

The investigation of crimes pertaining to this law is under the jurisdiction of the revolution courts, and all the equipment and related accessories which are confiscated from the convicted, in accordance with this law, will be placed at the disposal of the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance.

Pakistan

Foreign Minister Urges Steps To Control Nuclear Arms

BK2212161093 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali has said that South Asia should control the nuclear arms race. Speaking at a ceremony in Islamabad today to mark the graduation of a nuclear engineering course from the Pakistan Institute of Nuclear Technology, he said Pakistan has made several

proposals to prevent the proliferation of nuclear arms in South Asia, including the establishment of a nuclear-free zone. The foreign minister said it is regrettable that India has rejected all of these proposals and is currently testing Prithvi and Agri missiles, which will be used to carry nuclear weapons to their targets. Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali urged the international community to devise ways to remedy the real threat of nuclear proliferation in South Asia, which is a requirement of the times. He said the discriminatory restrictions enshrined in the Pressler Amendment have given India an opportunity to be stubborn and have enabled it to reject restrictions against nuclear proliferation.

Earlier, Dr. Ashfaq Ahmad, chairman of Pakistan's Atomic Energy Commission, also stressed the need to acquire expertise in the generation of electricity—especially nuclear energy—at the regional level to meet the country's growing need for power.

National Assembly Forms Special Committee on Kashmir

BK2312144893 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 23 Dec 93

[Excerpts] The National Assembly today constituted a special committee on Kashmir which will review the present situation in the occupied Kashmir, including human rights violations by Indian occupation forces. Formation of the committee was announced by the acting speaker, Syed Zafar Ali Shah. The committee, headed by Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan, will include Minister for Kashmir Affairs Mr. Mohammad Afzal Khan and Minister for Foreign Affairs Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali. The committee will make recommendations to chalk out a policy to provide political, moral, and diplomatic support to Kashmiris in their struggle for their right of self-determination in accordance with the UN resolutions. [Passage omitted]

The director of the foreign office will assist the committee. The special committee on Kashmir, after reviewing the entire spectrum of the Kashmir situation, will submit its recommendations to the government as to how the Kashmir issue should be highlighted at international fora.

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 352
MERRIFIELD, VA.

This is a U.S. Government publication. Its contents in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the U.S. Government. Users of this publication may cite FBIS or JPRS provided they do so in a manner clearly identifying them as the secondary source.

Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS) and Joint Publications Research Service (JPRS) publications contain political, military, economic, environmental, and sociological news, commentary, and other information, as well as scientific and technical data and reports. All information has been obtained from foreign radio and television broadcasts, news agency transmissions, newspapers, books, and periodicals. Items generally are processed from the first or best available sources. It should not be inferred that they have been disseminated only in the medium, in the language, or to the area indicated. Items from foreign language sources are translated; those from English-language sources are transcribed. Except for excluding certain diacritics, FBIS renders personal names and place-names in accordance with the romanization systems approved for U.S. Government publications by the U.S. Board of Geographic Names.

Headlines, editorial reports, and material enclosed in brackets [] are supplied by FBIS/JPRS. Processing indicators such as [Text] or [Excerpts] in the first line of each item indicate how the information was processed from the original. Unfamiliar names rendered phonetically are enclosed in parentheses. Words or names preceded by a question mark and enclosed in parentheses were not clear from the original source but have been supplied as appropriate to the context. Other unattributed parenthetical notes within the body of an item originate with the source. Times within items are as given by the source. Passages in boldface or italics are as published.

SUBSCRIPTION/PROCUREMENT INFORMATION

The FBIS DAILY REPORT contains current news and information and is published Monday through Friday in eight volumes: China, East Europe, Central Eurasia, East Asia, Near East & South Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America, and West Europe. Supplements to the DAILY REPORTs may also be available periodically and will be distributed to regular DAILY REPORT subscribers. JPRS publications, which include approximately 50 regional, worldwide, and topical reports, generally contain less time-sensitive information and are published periodically.

Current DAILY REPORTs and JPRS publications are listed in *Government Reports Announcements* issued semimonthly by the National Technical Information Service (NTIS), 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, Virginia 22161 and the *Monthly Catalog of U.S. Government Publications* issued by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

The public may subscribe to either hardcover or microfiche versions of the DAILY REPORTs and JPRS publications through NTIS at the above address or by calling (703) 487-4630. Subscription rates will be

provided by NTIS upon request. Subscriptions are available outside the United States from NTIS or appointed foreign dealers. New subscribers should expect a 30-day delay in receipt of the first issue.

U.S. Government offices may obtain subscriptions to the DAILY REPORTs or JPRS publications (hardcover or microfiche) at no charge through their sponsoring organizations. For additional information or assistance, call FBIS, (202) 338-6735, or write to P.O. Box 2604, Washington, D.C. 20013. Department of Defense consumers are required to submit requests through appropriate command validation channels to DIA, RTS-2C, Washington, D.C. 20301. (Telephone: (202) 373-3771, Autovon: 243-3771.)

Back issues or single copies of the DAILY REPORTs and JPRS publications are not available. Both the DAILY REPORTs and the JPRS publications are on file for public reference at the Library of Congress and at many Federal Depository Libraries. Reference copies may also be seen at many public and university libraries throughout the United States.